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Inside...

- Cafeteria Makes Changes pg. 10.
- Sleep Deprivation pg. 12-3.
- Cheerleaders pg. 27.

Crime and Punishment

Pg. 4

contents

news

STAR Test Results.....	3
Crime and Punishment.....	4
Parking Shortage.....	6
Mens Chorus.....	6
Overcrowded Classrooms.....	7
Junior Deck Closed.....	8
Freshmen Elections.....	8
Radical Realities.....	9

feature

Cafeteria Makes Changes.....	10
Medical Summer Camp.....	11

Feature Focus:

Sleep Deprivation.....	12
New Teachers.....	14

opinion

New State Budget.....	15
Wickham's Wit.....	16
Pro/Con.....	17
Frosh Perspective.....	18
Cafeteria Boycott.....	18
Chat With Chuck.....	19

entertainment

Movie Reviews.....	20
Talkin' with Totten.....	21

sports

Alumni Sports.....	22
Football.....	23
Girls Waterpolo.....	23
Boys Polo.....	24
Cross Country.....	24
Girls Tennis.....	25
Sidelines.....	25
Boys Soccer.....	26
Girls Volleyball.....	26
Cheerleading.....	27
Athletes of the Issue.....	28

ON THE COVER: A car is lifted from the Acalanes swimming pool by a crane.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Actors impersonating Bill and Monica throw BloPops and condoms from the back of a flatbed truck on Market Street in San Francisco. The prank was part of a promotion for the radio station Wild 94.9.

Blueprint '98-'99

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Editorials, with or without bylines, reflect the opinions of the editorial writer(s) and are independent of the opinions of the school administration, student body, faculty, advisor and staff.

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A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



Over-
crowded
classrooms.
pg.7

Blueprint

October 9, 1998 Page 3

STAR TEST

Critics Call Test Results Meaningless

By Rand Dadasovich
and Jeni Wolowic
*Co-Editor-in-Chief and Staff
Writer*

While most Americans are busy perusing Washington's Starr report, Acalanes' educators are reviewing a STAR report of their own.

The results for last spring's statewide STAR tests have been released, putting Acalanes and the rest of the district high schools at the head of the class. But the success doesn't come without criticism.

STAR (Standard Testing and Reporting) made its debut last spring after Governor Wilson signed a bill mandating all students in California public schools take a standardized test based on curricular standards. The test covered a variety of subjects including reading, writing, science, and social science but was specific to each grade level. Students in grades 2 through 11 participated in the testing at an estimated cost of \$34.5 million.

Within the Acalanes Union High School District, Campolindo had the highest scores, followed by Miramonte, Acalanes, and Los Lomas. Compared with other nearby districts, Acalanes schools had scores consistently higher than schools within the Mt. Diablo, Martinez, Pleasanton, Dublin, and San Ramon Valley Unified School Districts.

Acalanes 9th graders (this year's sophomores) had the second highest scores in the district for math, science, and social science, while Acalanes 10th graders scored the highest in the district with an 82 in math. Last years juniors had the highest scores within Acalanes, and the second highest when

compared with other juniors in the district. Their scores include an 88 in social science and an 83 in math.

"What (the scores) tell me is that we have students who are good, solid performers who do well when compared to the rest of the state," said Acalanes principal Keith Schmidt. "But when we get up into the percentages where we are now, making noticeable improvements doesn't happen. We certainly look at why certain scores are higher than others and we strive for improvement...but we shouldn't make goals in terms of numbers," he said.

"We want to treat the test proactively, give (the students) the best testing situation we can, and encourage them to do their best," said District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joanne Haukland. "Then we'll look the results and say 'Yes, they didn't do well there because we don't teach it and we're not going to teach it so it doesn't matter' or 'Yes, this is something they really do need to know and this is where we will concentrate our efforts,'" she said.

While it may be pleasing to hear how well Acalanes students performed on the STAR, critics of the test, including Social Studies Department Chair Larry Freeman, argue that the results actually say very little about the caliber of students. "This test was supposed to be based on California curriculum, when in fact it wasn't. It was a generic test taken off the shelf. We need to adopt a test that is specific to our curriculum. Either we adopt a curriculum based on the STAR test, or we develop a test based on our curriculum," Freeman said.

Schmidt echoed Freeman's sentiments saying there are still ambiguities concerning the application of the STAR results.

Acalanes High School STAR TEST SCORES

Grade	Reading	Math	Language	Science	Social Science
9	72	85	80	73	82
10	71	82	79	81	78
11	74	83	80	82	88

Average National Percentiles for all students, including students in Special Education and English as a second language classes:

"This is a company's decision about what they consider to be important. Is there any direct correlation between the standards and benchmarks that are being proved across this state and this test? No."

Some students objected to the test on the basis of fairness. "I don't see how accurate of a test it could have been considering we were tested on subjects we haven't learned yet," said sophomore Joyce Chan. "It was an unfair judge of our capabilities."

In fact, because the test did not follow a standard curriculum, some lower classmen were faced with problems from subjects traditionally considered advanced, according to Haukland. "There were some Calculus questions on the 9th grade math sections and chemistry questions on their science sections," she said. "It would be a very rare ninth grader that would be in either class."

Schmidt said that although the curriculum in public schools is anything but uniform, future administrations of the STAR test might provide useful comparisons to this year's results. "There are no trends here, there are only scores. Next year, (these statistics) will help us build a record and will allow us to make year by year comparisons."

CRIME

Acalanes Cracks Down On Student Crime

By Julie Zorn

and Hannah Hens-Piazza

Co-Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

"Crime does not pay."

Many students have heard this timeworn cliché and snickered at the thought, but Acalanes is determined to put bite behind this old bark.

In an attempt to discourage school-related crimes, Acalanes has a policy of enforcing stern justice in cases when perpetrators are apprehended.

Suspensions in the 1997-98 school year, for example, totaled 281 days, up from 150 days the previous year. Acalanes had a number of serious crimes occur last year, some of which did and some of which did not result in the punishment of the student perpetrators.

One of the worst and most notorious crimes last year was the \$2,500 loss of an auto shop car when it was pushed, allegedly by Acalanes students, into the school swimming pool on June 5.

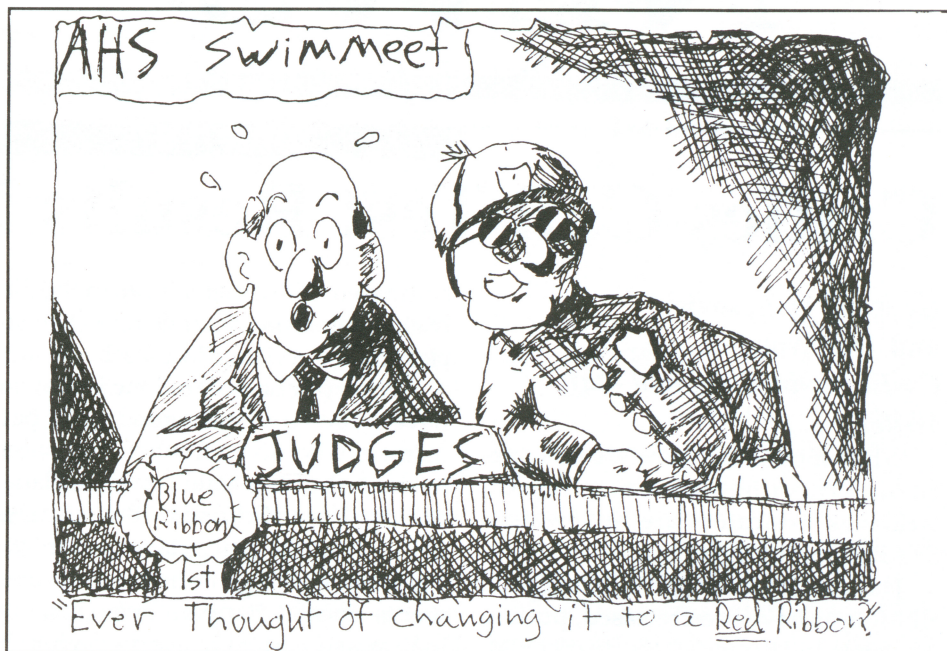
"We had about \$400 worth of parts invested in it and about five students had a whole bunch of their time invested in it," said Acalanes auto shop teacher Grant Cusick.

Although Cusick said that the class only lost \$400 out of their pockets, the finished product could have sold for \$2,500. The damage costs also included about a \$3,000 fee to hire a crane to pull the Honda out of the pool.

Cusick did not classify this as a senior prank, but rather as a juvenile criminal act, motivated by "revenge at the school."

Juvenile Prosecutor for the Contra Costa District Attorney's office, Hal Jewett, saw the incident in a different light, saying that although people were affected and property was destroyed, "the reality is that it was a school prank." The penalty for the "prank" being community service for the school and restitution for the damage done, he said.

Administrators have yet to find the students who allegedly stole and destroyed the car. According to Principal Keith Schmidt, the administration had a strong suspicion that the incident was a senior-related prank.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Although a police report was filed and both Schmidt and Cusick suspected who the perpetrators were, there was not substantial evidence to prosecute them.

Most students are not familiar with senior pranks of the past but classify last year's as destructive. "They got really crazy" last year, said one senior who went on to say that pranks in general were more ruinous than in the past, starting with Homecoming. Destructive pranks of the past include cementing a keg in the quad, putting goats on the roof, and decorating the quad with obscene spray paint designs.

Although many found the car incident humorous at first, they later realized the harm of the perpetrator's actions. "At first I thought it was funny, but then I realized how much damage it did," said one junior.

"Clearly it was stupid. Programs were disrupted. Those students who were working on the car lost their project and Mr. Cusick, who had the perfectly valuable thing," lost about \$2,500, said Schmidt.

About two months earlier school administrators took action against 10 swim team members who were cited for possession of marijuana on an away competition at Mission Viejo in Southern California.

Police officers originally cited seven students on the beach for "smoking weed," said

one student who denies involvement. According to interviews with all seven students dismissed from the team, there were actually only four smoking marijuana. The other three claimed they just happened to be standing near the others.

Of the four who were allegedly smoking, three admitted to the crime during Blueprint interviews, and all were named on the police citation. One additional student was cited, but the individual denies involvement, a claim backed up by other team members.

The remaining two students present at the time of the alleged criminal activity were not placed on the police report but were still sent home.

Another student, who also denies involvement, said that the school administration dealt with the situation "strictly by the police reports. The police said that (the incident) wouldn't go on our records, but it will... (The administration) didn't investigate enough" to distinguish between those who smoked and those who were just present.

The administration took a different stance, saying that there had been numerous investigative phone calls to Southern California within two weeks of the incident. "I don't know how much more investigation (the administration) could do short of

CRIME

a murder situation," said Schmidt.

Although smoking marijuana is not a crime, possession is a misdemeanor and punishable with a \$100 fine, according to Jewett. The students who were present but did not smoke marijuana can not be punished since being present at the scene of a crime is not against the law.

Lafayette police officer Paul Beard said, though, that if this was a first offense the students probably wouldn't be prosecuted anyway.

Since the punishment stemmed from the police report, only five students were kicked off the team; the other two were allegedly not on the police citation.

A second incident occurred on the same trip to Mission Viejo when three members of the team were caught with marijuana in their hotel room and immediately sent home and removed from the swim team. One team member who was caught admitted that he "had the knowledge that someone had pot on them," but he said nothing, even after the coaches gave a warning speech. The same student acknowledged that the incidents "reflect badly on the judgement of the team."

One student removed from the team said later, "I realize that the whole thing made us look pretty bad. It gave the whole team an unfair, bad reputation."

All members, involved and uninvolved in the ordeal, say the coaches did their job in trying to prevent any drug or alcohol use. "(The coaches) gave us a speech about not doing that kind of thing at the beginning of the trip. I don't think there was anything else they could have done," said a student who was not removed from the team. Both of the team's coaches declined to make any statement to Blueprint.

In total eight members were kicked off the team. One of the swimmers not involved said that the arrested students were "stupid to get caught," but he said he had a feeling they would use marijuana on the trip.

Since they were thrown off the team, the missing members negatively affected the outcome of the meet and the three successive meets in the season. "We lost a lot of people and so it was harder to make relays," said one varsity swimmer.

All ten of the members were initially suspended from school, though, according to

Principal Keith Schmidt.

A five day suspension is usually administered in this case, but students were offered a chance to cut that suspension to only three days if they met with a psychiatrist that is approved by the school.

In addition to substance abuse and vandalism crimes last year and this year, there have been two serious thefts, an assault, and a weapon brought on the campus.

The first occurred on March 11 of last year when three College Park student's "invaded" Harriet Kaizer's seventh period and attacked an Acalanes freshman.

School officials pressed charges against the students because "we simply don't think

"I don't know how much more investigation (the administration) could do short of a murder situation," said Schmidt in reference to the Mission Viejo incidents.

this was a model of behavior that we want others to mimic," said Schmidt.

Lafayette Police Chief Mike Ilg was outraged that "young people can theoretically invade a classroom session to pick a fight."

Later in the year on Graduation Night, someone broke into History teacher Larry Freeman's classroom and stole a Confederate flag, leaving a ransom note.

Freeman said he found the note on his desk the next day when he came to school for a meeting. The note, carefully constructed with letters cut from magazines, stated that Freeman's flag, a gift from a former student, had been taken and that Freeman would have to "walk around in the shoes of the black man for one day" to get it back.

"I teach the Civil War and the South because it's part of America's heritage. To some people, it's racist and to other people, it's indicative of the Confederate States of America as a separate country," said Freeman.

He added that he thought the perpetrators were not justified in their actions against him because he had the flag as a historic symbol, not as any type of symbol of his

own beliefs. Freeman said he intends to purchase a new Confederate flag.

In a more recent incident, about \$1,500 of computer-ware was taken from an Acalanes classroom. A computer, printer, and cart were missing Monday, Sept. 28 when Acalanes math teacher Janice Cushing entered her unlocked classroom that morning.

"The door was locked when I left on Friday afternoon...but the windows in this classroom have always been open," said Cushing. With the help of students, Cushing figured that the thieves must have entered through one of the open windows and wheeled the computer out on the cart, leaving the door unlocked. To back this theory up, Cushing said she found sticks and leaves on the floor beneath the window that may have been left by the criminals as well as bent book covers on the counter directly below the window where the person entering may have stepped. There was graffiti left above the room as well, but no solid connection has been made between the two incidents thus far.

The school filed a police report and carried out an investigation, but according to Vice Principal Jerry Bucci, there are no suspects now.

Jewett classifies this crime as a burglary since the intent was to take the computer and make it their own. If the perpetrators are caught they can be sent to Juvenile Hall.

Two students were also involved in bringing a paintball gun on campus last May. "Delivery (of the gun) was arranged here at school, but in the case of both of them, they were suspended; one for bringing and one for taking," said Schmidt.

According to the Lafayette Police Department, a paintball gun is not a firearm, but since it is a weapon, students can be punished for bringing one on campus.

The first year that Acalanes offered to shorten a student's suspension if they saw a psychiatrist, the total number of suspended days was cut in half from 224 days in the 1994-95 school year to just 111 days in the 1995-96 school year. The number of suspensions increased as the years progressed, though. This year there already has been a total of 25 days that various students have been suspended.

PARKING SHORTAGE

Parking Crunch to Cause Space Race

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

Students are on course for a head on collision with parking shortages later this year due to the construction of the new performing arts theater.

This year's problem will steadily escalate as seventy-five more drivers than we currently have will attempt to park next year, and the number of available parking spaces will decline.

As most Acalanes upperclassmen know, the dilemma of finding a parking space is ongoing. This combination of too many students and too few parking spaces adds up to early arrival at school and stiff rivalry for the few remaining spaces after 7:40 A.M.

"I got here at 7:37 and there wasn't a space in the parking lot," said junior Hilary Anderson about her arrival at school one morning. Students are forced to leave their houses early and join the race to obtain a parking space.

Compounding the problem is the construction of a new performing arts theater, which may begin as early as this spring. As a result, up to 80 spaces, of the 325 spaces in the lot will not be available for use. There could be as many as 10 portable classrooms parked in the lot, further reducing the number of available spaces said Principal Keith Schmidt. Only about half of the students driving to school will have a place to park.

Ernie Demartini, head of the math department, was asked to crunch the numbers of the situation and concluded that "this is a problem."

To the dismay of most drivers, parking at Springbrook and the local Methodist Church seem to be the only alternatives for those who arrive late. Cars parked at the church, however, are subject to ticketing and towing.

While there are no concrete plans to alleviate this upcoming crunch, numerous ideas have been proposed. Rod Keillor, the Leadership Advisor, believes in "solutions that come from the students."



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Two Acalanes drivers tried to squeeze their cars into only one spot. Students have been pressed to find parking because of increased enrollment at Acalanes.

Numerous students have suggested leveling and paving the dirt hills behind the track which could be used as an additional lot. Another suggestion was to have a lottery each month for reserved spaces for those people with carpools of at least three people. The proceeds of the lottery would benefit the school and possibly a parking fund.

Schmidt would like to see an increase in the number of carpools at Acalanes with possible incentives for those students who carpool. He believes that "carpooling (should be) a general practice." However, for those students who received their permits after July 1, 1998, carpooling is not legal without parental consent due to the new California Provisional Driving Bill. A *Blueprint* survey of all students driving into school parking lots on Sept. 13 showed approximately 60% driving a single occupant vehicle.

Even though steps may be taken to reduce the problem, Vice Principal Jerry Bucci believes that "no matter how much parking you have, you'll always need more."

SINGERS NEEDED

With the help of a swiftly taken breath, a small group of talented male singers makes music of notes and poetry of words. Is it the Backstreet Boys? N'Sync? Matchbox 20? The Wallflowers? No! it's the Acalanes Men's Chorus!

Graduates of men's chorus continue their careers as vocal musicians by singing in either the Acalanes A'Cappella Choir, which puts on the musical each spring, or the Acalanes Choral Ensemble, which is the school's most elite group of singers.

Men's Chorus is open to all ages and all experience levels, said Karen Linford, beginning singers are strongly encouraged to join the group.

As a member of Men's Chorus, you'll learn how to read music, appreciate both choral and instrumental forms of music and perform in front of an audience.

-Brianne Kennedy

OVERCROWDING

Acalanes Squeezed For Space

By **Brianne Kennedy**
Staff Writer

More Acalanes students and teachers than ever before have found themselves part of classes that are so large there aren't enough desks to go around.

In the worst situation at Acalanes, an average size classroom, built to accommodate between thirty and thirty-one students, houses a math class of thirty-seven.

"I sit at the teacher's desk, some kids sit at counters, and two kids in the back don't even have chairs at all," said an anonymous sophomore in the crowded math class. "It's a lousy learning environment because you can't get to the teacher to ask questions because there are too many people raising their hands."

But not everyone agrees that crowded classrooms are such a problem.

Math teacher, Richard Klier, who teaches the Algebra 2/Trig. class of 37 students didn't seem to mind the size of his large class. As he explained, it is determined by the combined desire of the administration and math teachers to maintain smaller class sizes in less advanced levels of math, namely Algebra and Geometry.

"These things are all money things," said Klier. "We have a contract that says 31 students per class. My Geometry classes are smaller than 31 and my Algebra 2/Trig. classes have more than 31. Add it up altogether and I've got the right number of students."

Overcrowded classroom issues will certainly not be quickly solved, as the number of students is increasing rapidly. According to the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) publication, "Fact Sheets 98-99", there will be approximately 1,564 students at Acalanes in 2005; 282 more than the number of students that attended Acalanes



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Acalanes students crammed into an overcrowded class room by sitting on deskless chairs and a stool. Many class rooms have been short on desks because of increased enrollment at Acalanes.

in 1997.

In response to the approaching rise in the student population at Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, and Miramonte, however, plans and structural changes have been made.

"The increase in students has forced us to look more closely at the use of our facilities," said Dr. Larry Larson, Assistant AUHSD Superintendent of Business Services.

Larson said that the anticipated increase in enrollment has certainly changed how the campus will look and how the district will plan for its changes.

Between the planned construction that is to be financed by Measure A, which was passed by voters in 1997, and the AUHSD's recently renewed effort to strongly restrict the rate of inter-district transfers of students to Acalanes, general classes of over 31 students should be eliminated as time passes.

"We sometimes lose sight of how incredibly fortunate we are to be able to fix things that are broken and to build new buildings that are nice

for the increased enrollment," said Larson. "The numbers [of classes with approximately thirty five students] would be much greater if we didn't have money, and the classrooms that we're in would not nearly be as nice."

The way that most students feel about the issue of overcrowded classrooms can be summed up well in a statement made by Freshman Heidi Koch. "It's not that bad," she said.

More Acalanes students and teachers than ever before have found themselves part of classes so large there aren't even enough desks to go around.

In other schools across the nation, overcrowded classrooms are the least of any school problem. "We're really lucky," said Larson. "We're very lucky."

Anyone with questions regarding enrollment should refer the AUHSD publication, "Fact Sheets 98-99" or call the AUHSD office and ask for the staff of Dr. Larry Larson, Asst. Director of Business Services.

JUNIOR DECK

Library Deck Closed To Students

By Lindsay Wood
Staff Writer

The library deck, known as the junior deck, has been closed by administrators since the third day of school due to problems with trash, noise, and harassment of lower classmen.

Principal Keith Schmidt's main concern is that the noise from the deck disturbs the students in the library.

However, Vice Principal Jerry Bruce points out the problems of trash and harassment of students. "In the first three days of school, a tremendous amount of trash had been left and there were several instances of harassment being directed toward individuals who would walk by," said Bruce.

Trash after lunch has been a problem plaguing AHS in many areas of campus, and an issue that the ASB has been trying to address.

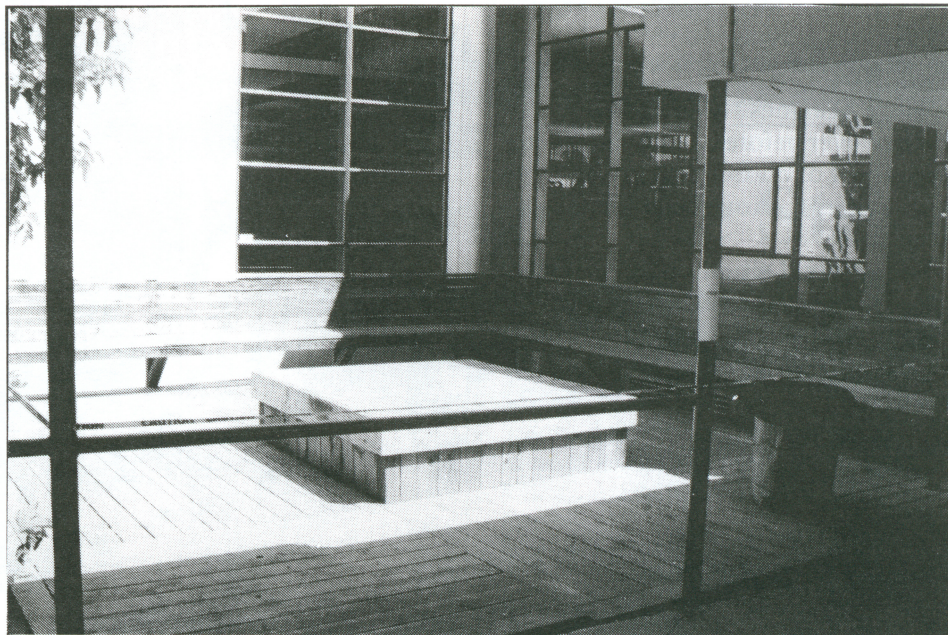
Administrators say that in the past noise from the junior deck disrupts the students working in the library. Last year the deck was closed due to noise. However one student did not remember this being a problem. "I never remember hearing noise from the deck in the library," said junior Mariela Bermudez.

Seniors who use the deck at break feel that it is unfair that there was no opportunity for them to change their behavior. Senior Molly Russell wanted to know, "why we were never given a warning about our behavior on the deck; instead we were punished".

Bruce explained that the administration "didn't physically say anything to anybody during the first two days of school, but the history behind it was that last year that deck was closed due to the same problems."

Bruce said the administration was still open to talks with students concerning "what sort of steps they as students would be taking to alleviate the problem." Schmidt echoed Bruce's suggestion and maintained that there were many other places where students could eat.

Until a member of the student body makes a convincing argument as to why they should be allowed to eat on the deck, it will be closed for the rest of the year during lunch.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

The Library Deck, commonly known as the Junior Deck, has been off limits to students since September first. Administrators closed off the deck with caution tape because students on the deck were allegedly noisy, disrespectful, and careless with their trash.

FROSH ELECTIONS

The Freshman Class has spoken!

The Freshmen Class elected their class officers just in time for the Sept. 23 Leadership Class planning field trip to Berkeley.

The Freshmen Class elected John Fossum to be its President, Matt Eaton to be its Vice President, Julia Anobe to be its Treasurer, Sarah McGlynn to be its Secretary, Valerie Downing to be its Social Secretary, and Mark Miles to be its Class Council.

The presidential and social secretarial spots were won in run-offs, two days after the general elections.

The officers' first duties were to pick a homecoming theme and color and also begin float designs. Though the officers changed their theme three times, finally resting on

The Jetsons, the officers feel fairly secure about their homecoming theme for this year. "We're going to stick with the Jetsons," a less-than satisfied Eaton said.

Eaton said that the officers will do a good job on homecoming because they are a "tight knit group."

Fossum said his goals for the future focus around fundraising for junior and senior years, which tend to be more financially taxing on class bank accounts. Fossum said, "we want to raise a lot of money for the future, Junior Prom and Senior Ball."

Fossum also said he wants to involve the whole class in homecoming and make the freshmen class's first homecoming a lot of fun.

-Vanessa Totten

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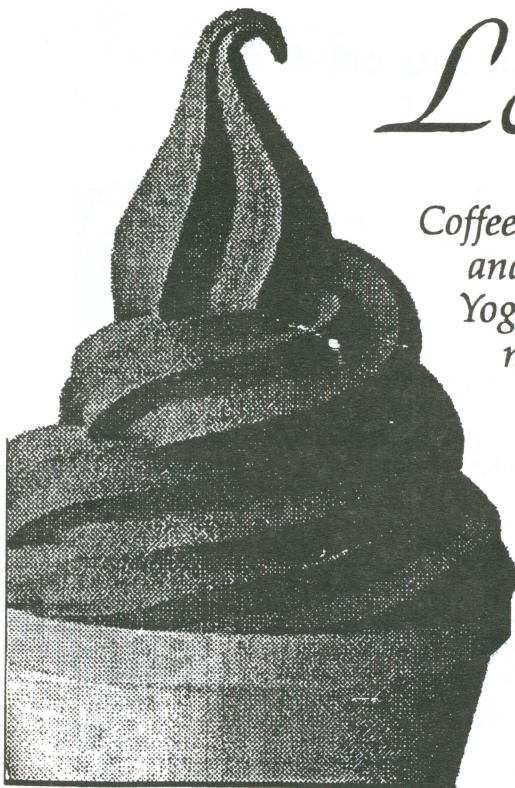
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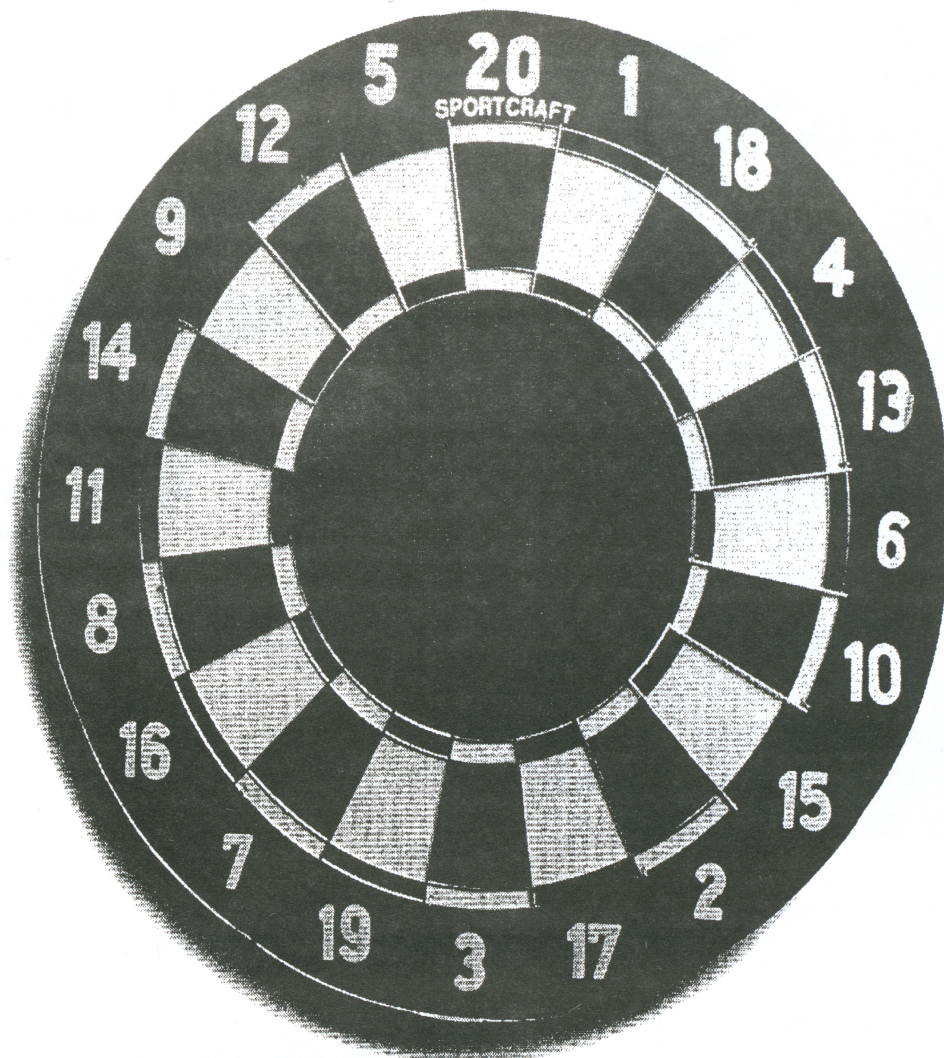
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RADICAL REALITIES

Radical Reality Breaks Barriers

By Julie Zorn
and Ann Bordetsky
Co-Editor-in-Chief and Staff
Writer

"The choices of today are the realities of tomorrow," said JP, a member of Radical Reality in an attempt to reach Acalanes students about the effects that every decision has on our lives.

Bending metal bars with the strength of their teeth and smashing concrete blocks grasped students attention as Radical Reality delivered a more eye-opening presentation on drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure.

Contrary to the average assembly, the Radical Reality presentation started out like an American Gladiator competition as the group smashed concrete blocks with the strength of their forearms. "I use the feat of strength to get (students') attention...I don't want them to leave remembering the feat's, though, I want them to remember the message," said Donny, the founder of Radical Reality.

"We try to give reasons to say no to things that are going to be destructive to" students instead of just telling students that they should not do drugs and alcohol, said Donny.

Darwin, who later joined the group, became a perfect example of the consequences of doing drugs and following peer pressure. Darwin was pushed into a lifestyle of drug dealing and "wom-anizing."

"For me to stand here and tell you that I did not have fun would be a lie, but they did not tell me about the tails side...They did not tell me that there will always be one missing from my home," said Darwin, who lost his little girl due to drug abuse.

In an attempt to prevent others from following in his footsteps, Darwin told his story, saying, "It cost me dearly, my little girl...You guys have two things that Natasha Marie Benjamin will never have again: life and choice...Make good choices."

Donny started the group sixteen

years ago when he was asked, as an athlete, to give talks to local schools. The program took off from there, and Radical Reality has been traveling around to high schools all over trying to save students from various self-abuses.

Radical Realities was welcomed into the Lafayette community by Pastor Mathews of the Oak Park Assembly of God who sponsors the cost-free assemblies in this area. "I want (students) to know that I'm there because I care, not because of the money," said Donny.

The group's presentation was welcomed with mixed emotions from the Acalanes community. Senior Mike Gong felt that although their message was meaningful, it could have been presented differently because he "could not relate to them."

Senior Michelle Hume agreed saying that she was compelled by the presentation, but she thought that the experiences presented were not as big of a problem at Acalanes.

Taking a different stance, senior Adam Nilson felt that their speech was very effective and that there were definitely students at Acalanes who needed to hear their message.

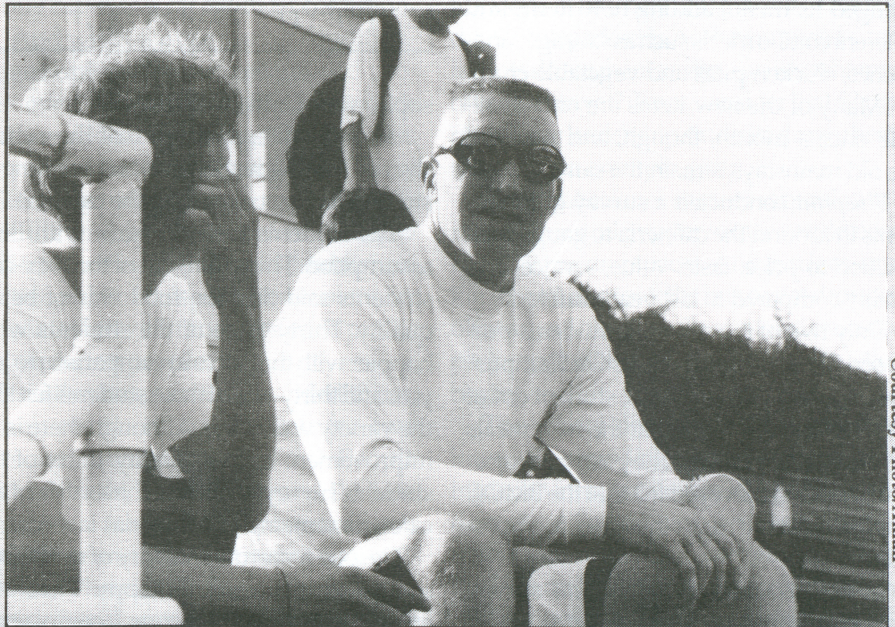
Donny can trace his success as both an athlete and motivational speaker back to "a high school teacher who made a difference in (his) life."

Not only addressing students but also teachers, Donny said, "You are overworked and underpaid, but you are the shapers and molders of our dreams."

Donny sometimes gets discouraged with his efforts to help students make the right decisions. "It is sometimes discouraging to see some of the hurt and the pain...sometimes you feel bad for the one's you don't reach," said Donny.

Despite some discouragement, he plans on continuing the group for year's to come. Donny keeps telling himself that, "If you reach one, it will make a difference."

PHOTO BRIEF



Courtesy Photo/Aklan

Chris Mullin, a star player for the Indiana Pacers, has been running on the Acalanes track for several years because it is state of the art, according to Mullin. Despite his super-star status, Mullin runs side by side with Acalanes students. On September 23rd Mullin took a breather from his work out and spoke with Acalanes students.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE



Sleep
Deprivation
pg. 12-13

Blueprint

October 9, 1998 Page 10

CAFETERIA

Students Praise Changes in Cafeteria Menu

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer

"We're listening!" proclaims the Acalanes Cafeteria on its menus featuring new and varietal school lunch selections, but the changes have met with mixed student opinions.

Last year senior Matt Blits led students in a boycott against Mariott Food Services in an attempt to improve the quality of the food. Blits distributed fliers outside the cafeteria and presented new proposals to the Acalanes School Board in order to get the voices of the students heard. The boycott ended by the end of the week with the School Board agreeing to improve the quality of the food.

In the wake of the student cafeteria boycott, Acalanes Food Services (AFS) has changed its menu, adding new items and different combo meals such as sausage sandwiches, chicken pitas and vegetable crudite. Many of the new items are only available once a month, though, and many of the old mainstays remain the same.

Blueprint conducted a survey of 61 students in around the cafeteria to gauge their reaction to price, taste, value, service, and quality compared to last year's cafeteria.

Only two of the sixty-one students purchased the new "Better Meals On Campus" (BMOC) dish. Although one student out of the sixty-one did think that the new meals were better than those in the past, the majority of students surveyed felt that the BMOC was "no different" than the other food provided.

A note written on a *Blueprint* survey form stated that no one bought the new BMOC (Better Meals On Campus) dishes because they cost too much money.

The new french fries won rave reviews from many students, however. "The fries have gotten crunchier and crispier," said



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

sophomore Daniella Risman.

Overall, Blits does feel that the school district is being responsive and listening to student feelings regarding the cafeteria.

The students seem to agree with Blits' assumption. Thirty-two out of the sixty-one students said that the food was of better quality. Thirty-three of the students were happier with the prices in comparison to last year and thirty-one of those students felt that the variety was better. Although there is an improvement in food quality, thirty of the students surveyed felt that the service of the cafeteria remained the same as last year.

Despite a narrow majority of optimism, some students are still not happy. "The chicken still tastes like a sponge," complained sophomore Evan Constantouros.

Some students also said that the price was largely unchanged. "It costs so much for something that costs so little," said one student.

However, Blits feels that the improved food is worth the extra price because the portions are larger. Although there are higher prices for the new combos, most of the prices for traditional menu items haven't changed and remain at \$2.75 for a basic combo.

Around campus, students who use the cafeteria continue buying their lunches regardless of the boycott and changes. Some students were completely contented with their cafeteria bought lunches. "Its quality," said one freshmen. "I just think it is some of the best food I've ever had," said Eugene Choe.

For others, the cafeteria situation just does not matter, as evidenced by the number of people who have nothing to say about the subject. Currently, reviews about the new food seem mixed, but AFS and Blits are working together to try to make food even better.

MEDICAL CAMP

AHS Students Camp With Cadavers

Andria Flakoll
Feature Editor

Several AHS students and graduates became the closest thing to Doogie Howser this summer, attending the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. AHS students Brian Enright, Simone George, Stephanie Jung, Lauren Masi, Reed Miller, Katie Powers, Scott Seibert and Vanessa Totten attended the forum, motivated by a strong interest in the medical field.

The forum lasted approximately two weeks in distinguished medical schools in Boston, Chicago, Huston, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. Participating students were able to experience the campus by sleeping in the dorms and attending classes taught by resident medical school students. The forum offered many experiences to immerse participants into the field of medicine.

Some students got the chance to examine cadavers. "I had to mentally prepare myself, but it ended up being really cool," said senior Brian Enright. Other students found mental preparation a bit hard because they didn't really know what to expect. Some were overwhelmed by the intense smell, but they managed to avoid fainting.

Problem based learning taught students how to evaluate medical cases, as a real doctor would contend with every day. Students were given information on a patient's medical problem and then took this information to the library where they would then research the possible cause and treatment for the patient. At two later sessions of Problem Based Learning students were given continuing information on the case so they were eventually able to determine a treatment.

Later on in the 11 day program, students gathered into groups to choose an area of medical ethics for which they would determine guide-

lines for other doctors. Later the guidelines were shared, debated, and voted on. However, few guidelines managed to make it passed the tough scrutiny of 100 teenagers. "It was really interesting to experience first hand the ethical dilemmas... No matter what you do, your guidelines will always offend somebody," said senior Vanessa Totten.

"The hardest part for me, was going on rounds with a cancer and AIDS specialist and meeting patients that had no more than a few weeks to live." Although this was hard for Totten, she said seeing patients that need help was a great motivation to go into medicine.

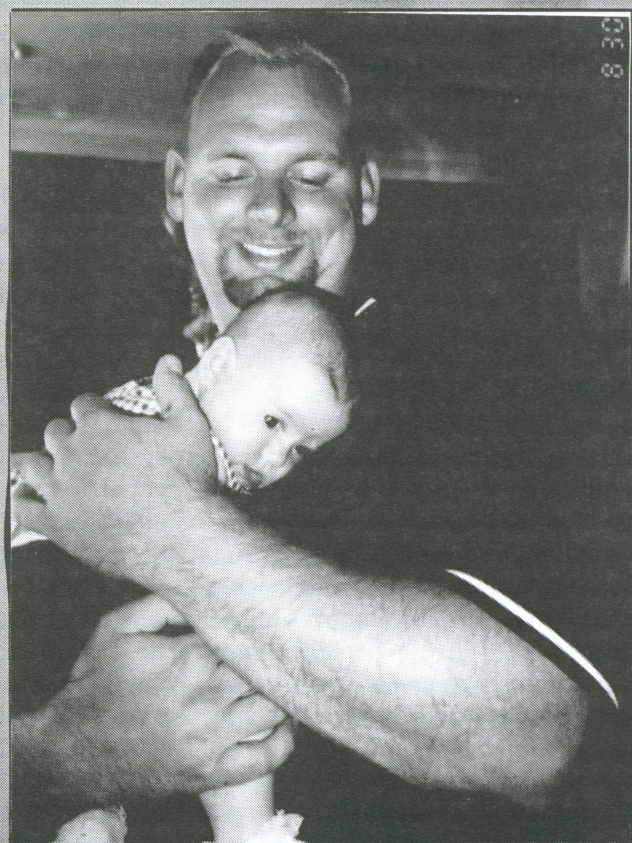
Senior Lauren Masi appreciated the honesty of the doctors during seminars on the pros and cons of a career in the medical field. "The doctors really wanted us to know what the medical profession is like so we don't make the wrong decision about our futures."

With the experiences the forum provided, many students were able to narrow down a specific interest in the medical field. After a rather tedious trip to the Food and Drug Administration, Enright decided he would much rather be examining patients than the E.coli in a glass of Odwalla's O.J. Upon com-

pletion of a trip to the National Library of Medicine, Totten knew she wouldn't want to complete 8 years of education just to spend the rest of her career at a computer for the benefit of her colleagues with an actual use for their stethoscopes.

Although the forum's participants didn't have to much free time, the scheduled day of living in the dorm, eating in the resident's hall, taking medical classes, and visiting hospitals simulated a factual life as a college student and moreover, as a future doctor. Many of the AHS students attending the forum still keep in touch with their roommates who they developed a real comradery with. Masi and her friends exchange E-Mail addresses. "They are still e-mailing me things," she said.

SMITH CAUGHT HOLDING



Coach Pat Smith shares a tender moment with social studies teacher Lyenne Denny's new baby.

Courtesy Photo

SLEEP DEPRIVATION

Sleepy Teens May Be In For a Wake-up Call

By Andria Flakoll

Feature Editor

While many students turn to caffeine to tackle exhaustion, US Rep. Zoe Lofgren proposes a more holistic approach to curing the zombie like state many students find themselves suffering as a result of sleep deprivation.

On June 24, Lofgren, a Democrat from San Jose, introduced the bill to Congress that would award grants of up to \$25,000 to schools that started after 9 a.m. A later wake-up call would elevate teen health, academic achievement, and safety, according to sleep experts at the National Sleep Foundation.

Lofgren's bill suggests United States high school students may be coming to school a little more clear headed than blurry-eyed if the "Z's to A's Act" passes Congress. "It's time for high schools to synchronize their clocks with their student's body clocks so that teens are in school their most alert hours and can achieve their full academic potential," said Lofgren in a press release.

While over 10,000 bills are introduced every two-year session of Congress, a slim 400 actually pass. Bills are first given to a sub-committee and if passed, on to a larger committee before they even reach the floor of the house. Contending with these odds, the "A's to Z's Act" was mainly designed to "promote awareness" says Lofgren's Press Secretary Michele Heller. So far schools in Minnesota, Arizona, Boston, Washington D.C., and Maryland have made the idea of the bill a reality.

"We have seen tremendous media coverage of this issue. So we hope that this will help encourage others to take a look at it," said the NSF's Director of Government, Darrel Drobnich. Drobnich says that the NSF is working with organizations such as Rock the Vote and Kids Safe to help support the bill.

The NSF theorizes that even though high school students are older, sleep is one thing they didn't grow out of. High school students need just as much sleep as they did in childhood, so while many teens get



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

six-and-one-half to seven-and-one-half hours of sleep on school nights, sleep researchers think they need nine-and-one-half hours to be bright and perky the next morning.

"Research does show that kids going through adolescence not only need more sleep, but they also have what's called a delayed phase shift where the chemical melatonin is secreted by the brain later in the day, so they're not biologically allowed to go to sleep earlier like adults," said Drobnich.

Melatonin, which induces sleep, is secreted at about 9:30 p.m. in young adolescents but at about 10:30 in older teens.

Principal Keith Schmidt said, based on his experience in education, he would not support the bill because he's observed that younger students find it harder to concentrate after lunch, moving the day back would shorten their quality learning time he said. "The trouble with some

of these things is that they may be correct that the real quality time for somebody is within certain hours, but the reality is for most people the school day is longer than their quality hours anyway," said Schmidt.

Schools that have put the ideas of "The Z's to A's Act" into affect report that the results are extraordinary. "The school reports fewer tardies and fewer absences, and what is perhaps the most astonishing is the parents, staff and students all agree that it's better," said Laura Tueting Nelson. Nelson is the communications director for a 6,500-student school district in Minnesota that moved start of first period from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at one of its schools, Edina High School. Minnesota has three years of data that they're researching for performance and learning upgrades specifically in relation to students GPA's.

Some AHS teachers have failed to see

SLEEP DEPRIVATION

the abundance of nodding heads and frequent yawns that researchers claim are becoming detrimental to a student's learning. "Men's chorus is really awake first period which is really surprising...they're really energetic. Women's Ensemble is extremely energetic second period. Last year's group was extremely sleepy. I think it has more to do with the character of the kids than the time of day, personally," said Karen Linford.

While Linford claims the cause of sleeplessness and inattention might be a class' personality. Rich Klier says he notices the sleepiness later in the day. "...Younger students get more tired later in the day..., but earlier in the day I don't have that sense."

However, while teachers and administrators at Broughton High School in Raleigh, North Carolina push to change their first period from 7:30 to 8:30, school board members denied their proposal because of concerns about transportation logistics and costs. Educators at Broughton now argue that the sleep needs of students should get just as much attention as transportation and cost considerations.

Acalanes has had some concerns, Schmidt said. "A tremendous amount of the students here, especially since we don't have a school bus system, are dropped by parents on their way to work and we already have a significant number of students who are already dropped off at 7:00-7:15 a.m., and that's for an 8 o'clock class. So if we moved the school day to 9:00 a.m., would they not come to school then? I mean if they're still relying on their parents for a ride," said Schmidt.

When teens do get out of school they're forced to juggle homework, jobs, and extra curricular activities making time for sleep harder than finding a needle in haystack. "After school each day I have sports and loads of homework keeping me up until nearly twelve, then I have to deal with waking up early the next morning," said AHS junior Lisa Smitley.

According to NSF Pediatric Council Chair Dr. Carskadon, "Imposing too early school start times on our nation's children require unrealistic bedtimes to allow adequate time for sleeping. Our

studies clearly show that early school start times for adolescents are frequently associated with significant sleep deprivation, which can lead to academic, behavioral, and psychological problems, as well as increased risk for accidents and injuries, especially for teenage drivers."

Besides improved concentration in school the "Z's to A's Act" is intended to lower the rate of accidents and injuries inflicted to sleepy teenage drivers. Sleep and fatigue experts agree that young people are the largest at-risk group for drowsy driving and fall-asleep motor vehicle crashes. "A North Carolina State study found that 55% of fall-asleep crashes were caused by someone under the age of 25," said

"Students in our nation's schools are walking like zombies trying to cope with the stresses of school, work and social activities that may literally be putting their lives in peril." -Dr. William Dement

Drobnich.

He says that while there has been significant educational effort focused in on drugs and alcohol amongst young people and driving, there has been very little on the basic message of making sure that young drivers get enough sleep and don't drive late at night when they're really tired. "There's the perception out there among adults that adolescents are just lazy. They don't want to get up on a Saturday morning and cut grass. All it is that they're catching up from being so severely sleep deprived during the week."

With Acalanes' 8 a.m. wake-up call students have to take a cold shower just to keep from dozing on the drive to school. "I'm always completely tired driving to school in the early morning,"

said Junior Christine Lin. Students with a O period have it even harder, arriving just after the sun at 7 a.m.

Dr. William Dement, professor of psychiatry and sleep disorders at Stanford University agrees that teenagers need more sleep. "Students in our nation's schools are walking like zombies trying to cope with the stresses of school, work and social activities that may literally be putting their lives in peril."

Starting school at a later hour also means it would end later as well, decreasing the amount of time teens are left unsupervised. Legislators hope that this will aid in reducing the teen crime rate. "New data compiled by the FBI shows that juvenile violent crime triples between after school. The data also shows that 57% of violent crimes occur on school days. Obviously if you leave school and you have your friends with you, you...go out and look for something to do that you shouldn't be doing," said Drobnich.

In regards to these findings Schmidt draws on 23 years of experience in continuation school, "The kids who are going to be out for instance burglarizing or breaking into peoples homes probably aren't in school, so the school hours don't make a lot of difference one way or the other."

Politicians are taking strong stands on the "Z's to A's Act" as reported by Eun-Kyung of the Associated Press. "It's invariably young people with no supervision, no place to go, because of this stupid, insane school policy that makes them start two hours before they should have to start. It doesn't make sense, and it's done to accommodate the convenience of people whose first priority is obviously not the education of our children," said Rep. James Moran, D-Va.

As a mother and an education advocate, Lofgren knows firsthand the effects of an early starting time. Her daughter is a junior at a San Jose high school which starts before 7:30 a.m. "Us grownups ought to figure out a way to structure the school day to maximize academic achievement."

NEW TEACHERS

Pfeffinger Nurses Knowledge

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer

Noel Pfeffinger, a new Spanish teacher at Acalanes, wants to do all she can to get her students motivated and focused.

Pfeffinger hopes to help students understand that high school is important. She feels that those who are not motivated will grow up to regret it, and high school is the time to really put forth a lot of effort. "For the last two years I have been grading the GED exams, both in English and in Spanish. In the students' essays they were able to express their regrets at not taking advantage of going to high school, and now trying to make up for lost time, while getting their degrees. On top of that, the majority of them do not pass the GED," said Pfeffinger.

She is culturally well-versed, as she used to live in Spain, and temporarily planned on spending the rest of her life there. Pfeffinger graduated from the University of Santa Clara. Besides working

with kids as a teacher, Pfeffinger was also a nurse at the Children's Hospital in Oakland and Los Angeles. Her experience with children has given her a chance to really enjoy seeing students work hard and learn, while having fun at the same time.

Pfeffinger's foremost role in life is as a wife and mother of three. She has a freshman attending Miramonte High School, an eighth grader at Orinda Intermediate, and a third grader at Glorietta Elementary. The four of them took a vacation to Spain over the summer, which Pfeffinger says was a valuable experience in cultural education for them. The Pfeffingers are also tennis fans, which she says "really takes up a lot of time in our family."

Other than working hard, Pfeffinger feels that respect and honesty are the most important messages she can give to her students. "I hope that my kids will grow up with respect for themselves and others, while having honesty and dignity. I



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

think that spreads over to the students I am teaching. Being a good person is the most valuable thing a person can attain," said Pfeffinger.

Grumet Gets Down at Acalanes

By Jake Nicholson
Staff Writer

Acalanes "struck a chord" for Aaron Grumet, Acalanes' new math teacher, after he experienced his first rally at Acalanes at which he was a little apprehensive. "I was worried that maybe I would end up with milk on my back," said Grumet, referring to the incident with last year's new teachers.

Although he has taught in the Oakland school district for five years, he didn't feel like a true Californian until Acalanes welcomed him at the "Welcome Rally" with music from the Beach Boys and a Hawaiian lei.

The change in school districts was a result of his frustration caused by the extensive bureaucracy in Oakland. "Whenever I wanted to get something done, there was a bunch of red tape involved.... I never felt like there was any kind of personal connection." At Acalanes, however, Grumet was

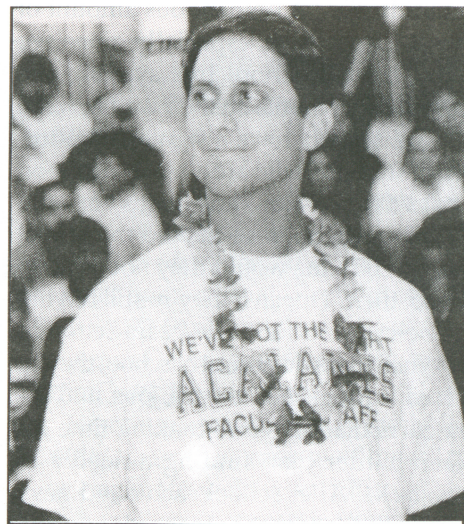
helped, welcomed, and guided from the very start.

Growing up in New York City, Grumet was exposed to a crazy world of media, celebrities and chaos, much different from Lafayette.

As a freshman in high school, the Beastie Boys went to his rival high school, and the son of "Ryan" in "Ryan's Hope," a TV show, went to school with Grumet. According to Grumet, Beastie Boy Adrock couldn't go to a concert one time because his mom wouldn't let him stay up that late on a school night.

He went to college at the University of Wisconsin and spent a semester of his junior year studying drama in London as "an excuse to travel" and one year teaching English in Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Grumet is Jewish and has been involved in a disturbing incident, involving students laughing at a scene during a class field trip to the movie "Schindler's list." "That was very, very disturbing for me to be in the



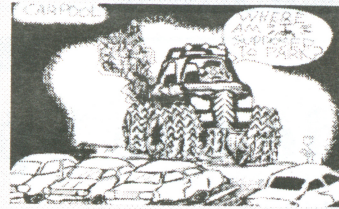
Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

middle of a circumstance like that."

Favorites of Grumet include mint-chocolate chip ice cream, watermelon, and movies by Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Wells. He says students should look forward to a motivational year and says jokingly to watch out for his big baseball bat.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

INSIDE



Chuck
chats
about
carpooling.
pg. 19

Blueprint

October 9, 1998 Page 15

NEW STATE BUDGET

Green Could Repare Wilson's Damage

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Pete "take no prisoners" Wilson vowed that once economic growth returned to California, so would education spending. But guess what? The recession has ended in California and our schools are still desperately underfunded.



We have consistently ranked as one of the worst ten states in education spending per student in the eight years that Wilson has ruled our state with an iron fist. When Wilson took office in 1990, California's per pupil spending was 93% of the national average according to the California Department of Education. By 1992 California spent only 83% of the national average, and the state has cut spending since.

Local governments haven't been able to pick up the slack in state education spending because of Proposition 13 which passed in 1978. Proposition 13 put a cap on how much revenue local governments could raise through property taxes. Wilson and every other Californian should have acted long ago to reform this legislation, so communities like our own could raise revenues for our schools.

Anyway, the decline in education spending paralleled a decline in the performance. And by 1996, we shared with Louisiana the prestigious title of state with the worst academic results, according to the September 21, 1996 *Economist*.

Wilson took note when education surpassed crime and immigration in the polls as Californians' highest priority. So in December of 1995, he released a plan to spend \$971 million on reducing class sizes for grades K-3. Not bad, you say. Well, think

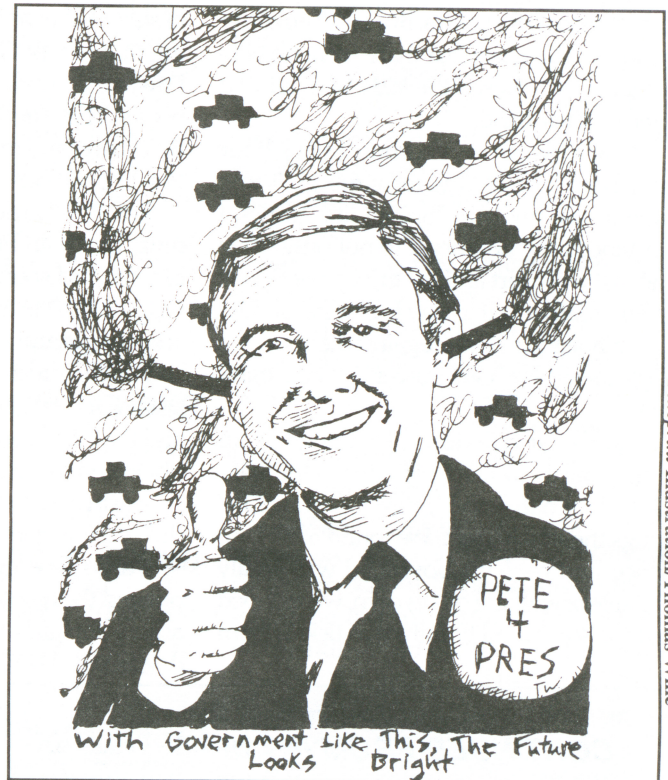
again.

Wilson didn't originally intend to reduce class sizes. In July of 1995 Wilson learned that the state had miraculously underspent by one billion dollars that year. Wilson probably would have used the money for some other expenditure like building prisons (one of his favorite activities). But under Proposition 98 which amended our state constitution in 1988, Wilson was required to spend it on education. Wilson cursed, but the people rejoiced.

The additional spending wasn't enough. In its February 7 issue this year the *Economist* noted that California only ascended to a lofty 41st in the country in education spending for the 1996-1997 school year. The additional spending helped so little that the National Education Association gave California an "F" in its 1998 report on the general condition of schools.

Unfortunately, things don't look like they will get much better soon. Only the Green Party's candidate for governor, Dan Hamburg shows any true promise for helping California's battered education system. Democrat Gray Davis has proposed only mild increases in education spending. And Republican Attorney General Dan Lungren was Wilson's spending policy accomplice, especially in increasing funds for prisons.

Lungren worked with Pete "put 'em all in jail" Wilson to drastically increase spending on prisons and decrease spending on



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

higher education. A study released Wednesday, September 23rd by the Justice Policy Institute reported that state spending on higher education in California has dropped 3% while state prison spending has risen 60% in the eight years that Wilson has been in office. The study's co-author, Khaled Taqi-Eddin, pointed out that the spending policy has given low-income and minority students "a higher likelihood of ending up in prison than a university."

This year's robust economy blessed the state with a \$4.2 billion tax surplus. Wilson and the legislature should have devoted the money entirely to education. Instead, they gave \$6 billion to education and used most the remaining funds to cut car licensing fees. So even though California will still rank in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

WICKHAM'S WIT

Inside the Spice Machine

By Teresa Wickham**Staff Writer**

"Girl Power". When the newspapers reported that the Spice Girls were coming to the Shoreline Amphitheater this summer, my heart jumped with joy. The very first thing to do was to call "Bass tickets" to get a pair of those fiery tickets. But Bass broke my heart by telling me that there were no tickets left. Darn those little kids with all that time on their hands.

After sitting in my bedroom crying hour after hour (phone was recharging), it was time to use my true "Spice Girl" tactics. I convinced my boyfriend to not only drive me to the concert and try to buy me tickets from a scalper, but to stay for it as well. Did he really stand a chance against me, the Spice Girl- fueled by "Girl Power?" Ha! I think not.

On the car ride down, I pumped us up by playing the wailing melodies of the Spice Girls 'Wannabe' and 'Spice Up Your Life' songs the whole way. We found a parking space, and once the boyfriend was finally capable of walking on his own, we scooped out the scene, and bought two tickets from

a just-busted scalper for a below market price.

Inside the Spice Machine, we sat down in the midst of a crowd of seven year olds. My date, Mister Boy Power himself, was slightly disappointed, having to come to a "Girl Power" concert. Then, the moment of silence allowed one last crack at excersising that mix of Girl Power and Consumer Power by buying the last of the posters and books. Then the Spice Girl's mission began. Boy Power and myself were stationed in our Power positions at the front of the field.

Boy Power tried to lay low in the beginning. But "Girl Power" overcame his inhibitions, and soon he too was up and hopping along with all the pre-pubescent, grade school kids and their dads.

Reality suddenly hit me. My two little sisters, and everyone else, loved this group and the Girl Power message that they send off. When those girls said to the world that "you can do what ever it is that you want to do", they weren't kidding.

These five girls, now down to four, opened the news paper and saw a want ad asking for girls who can dance and sing.

Without delay, hundreds answered it, and days later the players were selected. The corporation wrote them their first song, told them to be sexy, gave them some clothes, and concocted the Spice Girls. Just a little recipe anyone can follow. All you need is: 10 cups attitude, 4 cups of spice, 3 cups of short clothes, 2 tablespoons of talent, and 6 tablespoons of the line "You can be a feminist and still wear a wonder bra."

The Spice Girls stand up on the stage now, hovering over and around their fans, telling them how great Girl Power is, how much fun life is. How can four plastic people, make such an impact on our lives? They are a "fake" band, but I love them, and my sisters love them. (Especially the seven year old.) I'll bet there will be Halloween Spice Girls this year. With that, I stood back for a moment, just watching as the kids went wild and the girls sang on.

Then the spicy trauma finally set in. I had fallen for the money making scheme. The barbie dolls, cameras, books, calendars, rings, necklaces, and everything else. It overrides your thoughts, and you fall silently into the Girl Power, consumer scandal.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 15

the bottom 10 states for education spending, at least students can inhale more smog and carbon monoxide while enduring global warming.

The extra tax revenues will pay for eight additional school days and a class size reduction program for the ninth grade. However, the eight additional school days actually replace eight teacher education days at very little cost. The state did pay \$190 million for three additional teacher training days, but several Acalanes teachers were paid less than their normal salary for attending them this summer.

The state will only offer \$130 more per student in a reduced size ninth-grade social studies or English class compared to the \$175 extra per student that Wilson offered when he lowered

K-3 class sizes. And even then, schools had to spend \$125 more than the state gave them to cut class sizes. That money came from cutting other school expenditures. Our Assistant Superintendent Larry Larson who heads Business Services frets about finding the extra money for cutting class sizes.

It's a sad but appropriate note to end on for Pete's opinion poll driven politics. And Lungren committed to continue Wilson's education policies if elected governor.

Davis isn't much better because he doesn't know where he would come up with the money for his inconsequential increase in education spending. Plus, Davis put up little fight as Lieutenant Governor against Wilson's onslaught on education spending. Democrat majority leaders in the state congress praised this

year's shameful budget as a victory for education as much as Wilson and the Republicans did. "We came out with something that has something for everyone (including)...a dividend for the future and education," the Contra Costa times quoted Senate President John Burton, D-San Francisco. So don't count on Davis to bring quality education back to California.

Hamburg, the Green party's unique candidate for governor, would like to cut corporate welfare and direct the savings towards education. Moreover, he supports repealing proposition 13. His policies are exactly what California's education system needs. So, if you share a true concern for public education in California, cast your vote for Hamburg in November's election and consider reregistering as a Green.

PRO/CON

Is Summer Homework Worthwhile?

By Brian Connolly
Layout Editor

Without summer homework the purpose of educating students is undermined. Students avoid academic activity at all costs during the summer setting back the learning process by forgetting information they have already learned.

A typical summer day begins with you arising at 10:55 in the morning after a night of undisturbed sleep. You curse Springer for being on so early, fix up a bowl of cereal and watch acrobats confront circus strong men which inevitably results in fights. Then you call up your friends, hang out, go to parties, and the whole time you gradually forget things you had been tested on two months before. Fun as it is, for most students summer results in severe atrophy of the mind and mocks the students futile attempts to learn.

Since summer homework is not assigned by most teachers, Students are not properly motivated to continue their quest for knowledge. Summer is seen by most students as their time and choose to spend it on an all too familiar place called the couch. Hours are wasted watching shows such as "The Price is Right," yelling out estimates for the retail price of a brand new Winnebago.

If given homework, a topic to grasp, or a review assignment, students would be better suited to enter the next school year fully prepared. By retaining previous knowledge through intermittent review students would be amply prepared to respond to questions such as, "Who remembers what a redox reaction is?" or "Como pasaron sus vacaciones?"

The overall benefits of summer homework are recognized by some students. Intellectual giant, junior Nate Burns attended Laney College over the summer in hope of augmenting his understanding of US History. Nate said, "Continuing to learn throughout the duration of summer is critical to the success of a student; the thought that a student could deprive himself of fully achieving his mental capabilities is appalling."

While some students choose to improve their high scores on games such as Mortal Kombat 4, other students strive to improve their SAT scores.

If you don't believe in studying over the summer, you may consider reevaluating your situation and take the initiative to use your free time to your benefit; as your success as a high school student plays a determining role in your future.

By Andria Flakoll
Feature Editor

After nine long months of school, students look forward to their summer vacations, but before many students can sneak out the door on their final day of classes they receive the dreaded announcement of summer homework. Is it too much to ask to be rid of school for a meager two and a half months?

Teachers don't have it any easier than students during the school year. Every assignment has to be graded, and there's the barrage of assignments to prepare. Teachers should know how it feels to be stressed out. How do they expect students to recover during the summer, if the weight of school work is never lifted?

Students taking advanced classes most often receive summer homework, and it is these poor students that need their summer break the most. Students in Honors English III had to read 3 books and analyze 15 passages from each. Students in AP English IV had to read 4 books and completed reading logs. Students in AP US History had to read seven text-book chapters, take notes on these chapters, write a DBQ (Document-Based-Question) essay, compile an economics binder, complete workbook assignments, and memorize articles such as the "Bill of Rights". AP European students had to read 3-4 text-book chapters, complete a geography assignment, and take a test on this information the first few days of school.

If AP classes are considered college credit, teachers should take into consideration that the exact same classes taken in college would never have summer homework, and they are still completed in a quarter or a semester, not a full year like in high school.

If summer homework was eliminated, teachers could compensate by making it optional. Some students would be ahead and others would have to work harder to catch up.

It is important for students to keep using their minds even during the summer, so why not turn summer homework into something educational yet fun? AP History teachers could require students to visit historical landmarks and museums, and advanced English teachers could have students keep journals on their vacations or write stories and poetry.

Many students have jobs, participate in summer sports, take summer school, go to camps, and travel. How does this busy schedule leave any time for summer homework? It doesn't.

The last weeks of summer should be the greatest; go out with a bang. Many students are forced back into their routine prematurely, without the final moments of carefree bliss. It's a travesty that teachers should think twice about putting their students through.

FROSH PERSPECTIVE

The 'Scum' Of The School

By Bas Howard**Guest Writer**

You get up at 6:50, and you wish you still had the luxurious life of an eighth grader, where you could sleep so much (10 minutes) later. But you can't; you're a Freshman.

In study hall, you wonder if your girlfriend is going to dump you for a Junior today or tomorrow. Oh, wait. You're a Freshman. You don't *have* a girlfriend.

Rushing to fifth period, a varsity lineman flings you down one of the many unfamiliar halls. You lie on the ground, twitching, and wondering why, oh why, you have to be subjected to such torture. The answer: you're a Freshman.

The transition from middle to high school is difficult. Responsibility is doubled, while your leisure time has been, for the most part, halved.

Instead of the plush, carpeted, and air conditioned rooms of Stanley, incoming Freshman are cast into the tiny, swelteringly hot class rooms built shortly before the Civil War. Even the desks are like minuscule booby traps. "I can't get into my chair. I get stuck halfway all the time," said freshman class president John Fossum.

Not only is the interior of the school unfriendly, but the outside proves proves downright hazardous. Few Freshmen dare to enter the quad, and fewer still leave without the embarrassing stain of a well aimed milk bomb. "I heard this splat, and my leg felt wet. I heard this laughing noise. So I turned and yelled profanities at the people laughing at me," said freshman Chris Eaton.

And then there is the issue of lockers. During the first week of school, the sound of confused freshmen pounding futilely at their impenetrable lockers resounded throughout the halls. The once-mighty eighth graders stood weeping like little children.

Of course, we have rallies to compensate for all these difficulties and lift our spirits. For those of you who haven't ever been to a rally, allow me let you in on a little secret about the games—**THEY'RE RIGGED!** I'll be the first to admit that I'm a clueless freshman, so maybe someone else could let me in on the reason why eighteen-year-olds would care so much about watermelon eating that they would rig the competition.

There are some bonuses to being a Fresh-

man, although none spring to mind immediately... Oh, here's one. The protective environment of Stanley is completely different than that of the less nurturing Acalanes. This can be both good and bad. The downside is the responsibility can be overwhelming at times, with the homework load increased. But it's great to get breathing room, and the privilege to think more independently. You feel less oppressed, and more adultlike.

Also, there is the opposite-sex factor. We've already established that freshman (guys, at least) get very few dates. But that doesn't mean you can't *look*, right? And we do have cheerleaders.

Cafeteria food, while it may be unappetizing to some, is a welcome treat to forgetful Freshman. If an eighth grader forgets his lunch, he starves. But if a *ninth* grader forgets his lunch: he gets pushed out of line by oncoming seniors faster than you can say "upperclassman have the right of way."

Freshman are the scum of the school, and there's no two ways about it. They are the least intelligent, the weakest, and the most clueless students that attend Acalanes. Sorry to offend members of the class of '02, but it's true. We are.

HACKING WITH HANNAH

To Eat or Not To Eat?

By Hannah Hens-Piazza**News Editor**

The Acalanes boycott may have achieved its goals of improving food taste and lowering prices in our cafeteria, but it was ridiculous that we made such a fuss when many people in the world are starving.

As determined students, we must strive to stand up for our rights. We also need to take into consideration that there are massive famines right now in the world, most prominently in Sudan and North Korea.

These famines don't affect our lifestyle, and that needs to change. When students set up the boycott against Marriott and our cafeteria, they were most likely not thinking of how the food they were boycotting could save an entire village in another coun-

try.

There was so much energy spent in making flyers and standing at the cafeteria doors, discouraging students from coming in, that I started to think maybe that energy could be put to better use.

To many Lafayette students, food is something we find on our plates and in big supply. In fact, most United States residents regard food as nothing more than, well, food. We don't think of it as a privilege. We go to the grocery store and buy food, and then we come home and we eat it without feeling fortunate.

Not only do many people take food for granted, but they complain about it as well. Imagine what would happen if Acalanes donated its cafeteria to a small village in

Sudan. We would not hear comments like "These fries are too greasy" or "This pizza is as thin as paper."

As members of a community that usually doesn't have to scrape around for food or use sticks to build our houses, we all need to pay a little more attention to what we do have instead of what we don't have.

Famines have not exactly been the top story on the news lately. In fact, National Geographic is probably the only magazine that doesn't have a picture of Monica Lewinsky on the cover. But we still need to see those brief images on the evening news of starving children and their families. And we need to think about what it is we stand for as students, whether we want to promote better food or food at all for others.

CHAT WITH CHUCK

Carpooling: A Novel Idea

By **Charlie Eaton**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

We've packed our parking lot tighter than a prom dress on a sumo wrestler this year.

My brothers and I showed up to school a half hour early the other day expecting to leisurely park our truck. But when I crested Dear Hill Rd. and began to descend towards campus, it became clear that parking would be anything but leisurely. So I busted out my highly practiced stunt driving skills and slalomed into the last available space. Time: 7:32.

One could get a parking spot until 7:55 last year. This year, if someone arrived at 7:55 he or she would likely park in Nevada.

And parking, my comrades, can only get worse. We have problems squeezing Mommy's and Daddy's luxury cars into 325 spaces. When school construction kicks into gear we will lose about 50 of those spaces. Result: total anarchy.

We'll see brawls over single parking spaces, the likes of which you've only seen at baseball games and really rowdy school board meetings.

Auto shop students will have going rates for jacking parked vehicles and relocating them to open up parking spaces for "preferred customers." Just imagine the astonished students trying to explain to our "Grand Wizard" of parking that they were sure that they parked 30 yards away.

And the problem won't go away, for it seems the sumo wrestler is getting fatter. There's nowhere to expand the parking lot, and our school enrollment grows faster than populations in most third world countries.

Of course, we students have brought this dilemma on ourselves. We insist on driving our own cars that for which parents forked the bill. We need to show off our Mercedes Benz, Ford Explorers, and Mustangs. You might risk your invitation to this year's elite Daphney dance if you don't.

The best solution would be public transportation. But I can already hear the whining outcry to that one.

"But Charlie, cars are great. Cars get us to school quickly and comfortably."

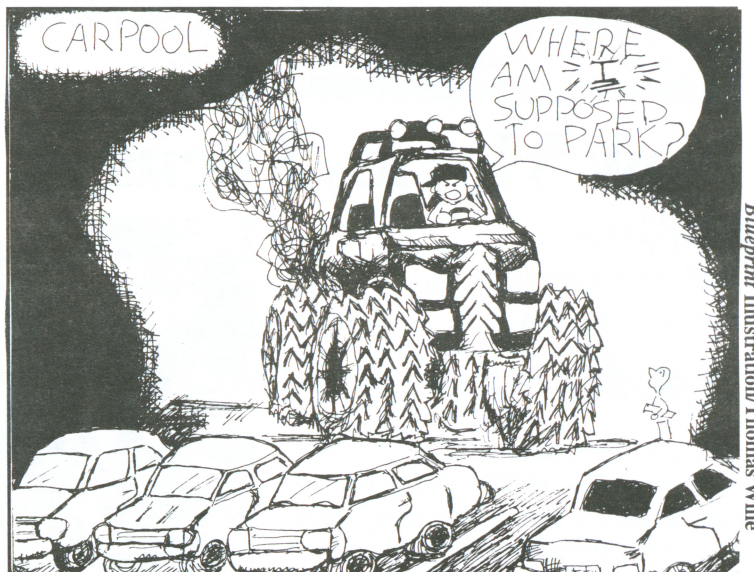
Right, and cars don't demand any human activity to operate. All you do is push the pedal, emit massive amounts of carbon dioxide, and go. Terrific; we can all get fat and out of shape, ruin the environment, and get to school faster.

And as an added bonus in steamy Lafayette, where money appears out of thin air (and disappears back into thin air when the Dow falls once and for all), we can buy expensive cars with air conditioning. And when we use our air conditioning, our cars use even more gas and produce even more carbon dioxide which produces global warming which makes Lafayette even hotter. Swell huh?

Students must start carpooling to solve the problem because we all know that Lafayette is unwilling to establish an effective public transportation system, let alone interact with those "inferior public transportation people."

The other day, a friend confided to me, "I took public transportation for two years and I hated every day. People would drive by in their cars and I'd hide from them... I thought people would say, 'I can drive and she can't, what a loser.'" Sure, the view is a little overly self-conscious. But it isn't that hard to believe considering the materialistic elitism that fills our community.

Any New Yorker can tell you that in the Big Apple, where parking presents a real problem, that people actually consider it



cooler to use public transportation. But Lafayette has a long way to go before we see a fully punched bus ticket as cooler than a plush sports utility vehicle.

Nevertheless, it really isn't that hard to poke around your neighborhood and find someone who drives to and from school at the same time as you. Over 197 students showed up to school on Friday the 16th driving alone. That means 60 percent of the students who parked in Acalanes owned parking lots drove themselves. Are we ashamed of ourselves yet? If not, consider that 63 percent of our leadership students drove themselves. Fine example, gang.

If every Acalanes student carpoled at a ratio of five students per car, we would need only 270 parking spaces. And that is assuming that no one took the bus or got dropped off at school. So if we all carpoled we could park comfortably even when construction begins.

The school district even expressed an interest in providing incentives for carpooling in the form of cafeteria and parking pass discounts. So you have no reason to resist unless you're a selfish, lazy glutton whose Dad works for a major oil or car company.

I carpool four days a week and get a ride with my dad (oh my god, like how embarrassing!) one day a week on his way to work. And I am yet to be inconvenienced. So join the ecology and parking conscious few and embrace this novel idea.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE



Students rush to BlockBuster to claim their copies pg. 21

Blueprint

October 9, 1998 Page 20

New Movies Focus on Indigenous Peoples

Thomas Wille
Staff Writer/Cartoonist
Smoke Signals



(Miramax, 1998) Rating: PG-13

Smoke Signals, the first widely released film "by and for the modern Native American," is simultaneously one of the best and most overlooked films of 1998. The film is a refreshing look at modern Native American life, and a personal story of tragedy and triumph.

The director, Chris Eyre, and screenwriter, Sherman Alexi, are both Native Americans who grew up on the ignored land parcels known as Indian Reservations. The plot of their movie begins there and takes the classic buddies on the road to examine the role of Native Americans in the modern world. The writing and direction are able to capture the understated style of Native American humor, and the movie is very funny.

The film centers around Victor Joseph, a young Indian who receives word of his father's death and sets out to claim his remains. His childhood friend/adversary Thomas Builds-The-Fire, pays for their trip in order to leave the reservation for the first time. The journey is an awakening for both men who have never interacted with the outside world.

Thomas is played by Evan Adams, who creates one of the most three dimensional Indian characters of all time through a nerdy young man with a knack for telling stories. He is at the same time the comic relief and the spiritual anchor for the cynical and wounded Victor.

The movie takes head on the positives and negatives in the American Indian experience. Victor's father was an alcoholic, which leaves his family in shambles. Yet at



Dr. Fuentes holds one of hundreds of skulls he finds at a mass grave in *Men With Guns*.

the same time Victor and Thomas are both good people who maintain strong relationships with their remaining family members.

Victor vents his frustration about Batman and Superman by saying, "We don't even have any heroes," which serves as a metaphor and central message of the movie: the American Indian has no definite place in society.

Men With Guns



(Sony Pictures classics) 1997 rating: R

John Sayles (*Lone Star*, *Matewan*) wrote, directed and edited *Hombres Armados* (*Men With Guns*), an incredible film recently released on video, that effectively portrays the massive repression of indigenous peoples in Latin America.

Although it is an American film, Sayles

wrote the script in Spanish and it can only be seen with subtitles.

The film takes place in a modern unnamed Latin American country. The story follows the wealthy Dr. Fuentes, whose wife has just died. Fuentes treks through the mountains in search of his former medical students who are doing humanitarian work in the *selva*.

On his way, Fuentes meets an orphan boy who knows the indigenous languages, an army deserter, a liberation theologian who has lost his faith, a mute rape victim, fascist army members, and left wing guerrillas. He discovers the indigenous population who live in constant fear of the *Hombres Armados*, or men with guns, who terrorize the civilian population.

The acting, partly because it is all unknown Mexican actors is very convincing. The Indigenous people who populate much of the movie, wear genuine Mayan Indian clothing and can be identified as such. Ztzil and Tzeltal Indians are recognizable which gives the movie a great authenticity. It's fascinating to hear the very foreign sounding Mayan dialects interspersed with the Spanish. This movie should never be dubbed.

Men With Guns was filmed entirely in Mexico. From the capital city to the jungles of Chiapas, Sayles takes the viewer on an allegorical journey through Central America. He tells the honest stories of government repression and the need to fight back without violence.

Sayles clearly created this movie with a social purpose: to awaken Americans to massive crimes that were committed with United States weaponry during the 1980's in Latin America. In making this film Sayles strives to stop similar tragedies occurring in Colombia and Mexico today.

Sayles's involved plot and the authenticity of his film make it impossible to finish watching the film without feeling a deep sympathy for indigenous Latin Americans.

Ratings out of four stars



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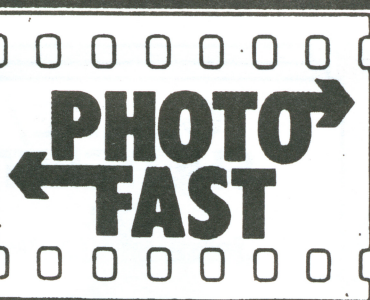
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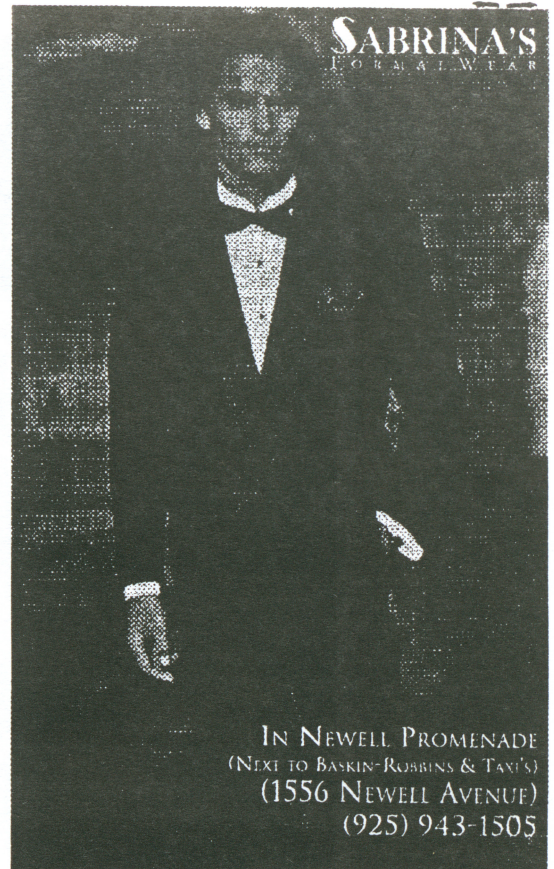


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TALKIN' WITH TOTTEN

Leadership To Animate Students

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The month of October will prove to be a busy one for more than a few Acalanes students, but Homecoming will be a worthy reward for everyone from the SAT weary seniors to the milk-soaked freshmen.

Five days of no homework, no sleep and lots of glue (freshmen, you'll soon find out what I'm talking about). From the first night of float building to the last song at the Homecoming dance, the week will be an action packed cartoon adventure with Batman showing his seniority, leading the pack of Teenage Mutant Ninja Juniors, Superman and his sophomoric pals and the Jet-

sons, traveling from the far off planet of Stanley.

This year's events, kicking off on the 19th, will prove to be as busy as ever. The Rally Board, headed by junior Teresa Collins, presented the theme at the annual Leadership conference in Berkeley on Sep. 23. After much bickering and a few stealthy moves, the officers of each class chose their sub-themes and class colors. The new and somewhat fickle freshmen class officers got a taste of the work ahead of them when the schedule of the week was passed out.

Collins and her board have created a fun-filled week for all Acalanes students. Make sure to come out on Monday night to watch the powder-puff football game. Come dressed in your class theme on Wednesday and in your class tee-shirt on Thursday to get spirit points for your class. On Friday, wear your blue and white as all classes will unite in the name of Dons pride. The pa-

rade will be at 3:30 on Mount Diablo Blvd. Make sure to come on down and support the Dons.

I hope you all like hamburgers, because there will be a barbeque at lunch and a tailgate party before the game. The tailgate party is a new event this year, and a major goal fulfilled for ASB President Morgan Miles, who aims to increase school spirit this year. After the tailgate party, go watch the Dons teach the Dublin Gaels a lesson in losing.

The crowning event of the week is the dance on Saturday night, which will be highlighted by the crowning of the royalty and a spotlight dance. Don't forget to buy your dance tickets early; last year the crowd almost exceeded the maximum capacity of the gym.

This year's events will be as fun as ever and we will all tend to get wrapped up in our class competitions, but don't forget that the point of Homecoming is to come together as a school and support our Dons.

Homecoming '98

Pre-Homecoming Week:

Flower Making

Class Tee-Shirt Pick-Up

Monday, October 19:

Mini-Carnival

Powderpuff Games 6:00 p.m.

Homecoming Rally

Tuesday, October 20:

Relay Competition

Wednesday, October 21:

Theme Dress-Up Day

Lip Sync Contest

Thursday, October 22:

Class Tee-Shirt Day

Skit Presentation

Poster Presentation

Friday, October 23

Blue and White Day

Football Rally at Lunch

BBQ at Lunch

Parade at 3:15

Homecoming Game

Saturday, October 24:

Dance

TITANIC ANTICIPATION

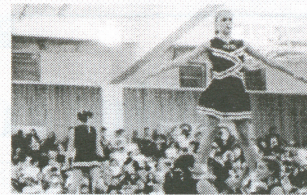


Acalanes junior Courtney Lutz and her mother proudly display their new *Titanic* memorabilia after buying a copy of the Academy Award winning movie. The movie was put on sale at midnight on September 1 to promote sales.

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

ACALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE



Cheerleaders
petition
Leadership
for sports
status. pg.27

Blueprint

October 9, 1998 Page 22

ALUMNI SPORTS

Acalanes Graduate Amongst the Stars

By Chris Vetek
Sports Editor

Playing on a field of dreams, Ben Conley felt a bit overwhelmed by his surroundings.

Conley, who graduated last year, played in the prestigious California Baseball Coaches Association North-South All Star Series last June 12-14th in San Bernadido.

The CBCA chose 90 names out of 300 sent in by Northern California high school coaches, and those 90 tried out for 20 spots on the Northern team, which drew top talents from as far south as Bakersfield and as far north as the Oregon border.

"It was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I missed graduation, but there were two other guys who also missed theirs and we had fun hanging out down there," said Conley.

The North lost all three of their games in the three day, three game series, in which Conley was 1 for 4 with one RBI and 2 walks.

His biggest play came in the last game. Stepping up to the plate, Conley knew the disappointment he would feel if he walked away without a hit at "The Ranch"(field). With a runner on third and the North behind 2-0, Conley belted a line drive up the middle, driving home a run.

Conley, who missed graduating with the class of 1998 last June due to his game, believes his sacrifice was worthwhile. "That was one of the best experiences that I've ever had. I missed my friends at graduation but this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Who knows if I'll



Courtesy Photo Ben Conley

Acalanes Graduate Ben Conley spent his graduation day at the prestigious California Baseball Coaches Association North-South All Star Series. He anxiously awaits the pitch from the All Star Pitcher from Southern California.

ever do that again," he said.

The South was dominant throughout the series, with several high profile stars. One pitcher, according to Conley, was drafted straight from high school in the first round of the MLB Amateur draft. Another, 6'5, 205 lb. Mark Drier of San Diego High, gave up a \$1 million contract with the New York Yankees to play in the All Star Game. Sixteen players altogether from the game were drafted in the Amateur draft.

Conley starred for Acalanes baseball the last two years, helping the team win North Coast both years, with a 47-11 record. Last year they were 23-6 and beat Benicia 6-3 at the

North Coast Championship.

He started in the first and third games, playing four innings a game, and he played the last five innings of the second game. "I knew two other guys on the team, which made it more fun. One was from Monte Vista and one from Northgate," he said.

Going into last June's events at The Ranch, the series was tied 14-14. By sweeping the series this year the South took a 17-14 lead.

"The South was pretty much dominant this year, with so much talent probably heading into the Majors through the draft. They dominated most of the series," he said.

FOOTBALL

Concord Deals Dons Second Straight Loss

Reed Miller

Staff Writer

The Dons' devastating 21-0 loss to Concord at home on October 2 brought their losing streak to two games.

Acalanes gained only 44 offensive yards while giving up 334 yards to Concord.

Quarterback Dave Iversen completed three of 12 passes with two interceptions, and Corey Hardin, Acalanes' leading rusher, was held to only 34 yards on 11 rushes.

The Dons (2-1) had similar trouble with their offense against the highly ranked Matadors (3-0). Iversen completed only one pass in the first half, and the Dons did not seem to get any breaks. When it looked like the Dons might pull through with another first down, the Mats stopped them in their tracks.

Meanwhile, Miramonte quarterback Ken Dorsey kept finding the open man down field. Miramonte had already scored 33 points by the half.

"Miramonte... wouldn't be ranked number three in the East Bay if they weren't (good)," Coach Smith said.

In the second half, things got worse before they got better. Midway through the third quarter, Dave Iversen came out of the game with an injured shoulder. Iversen said that he had reaggravated an injury from last season and that he will be fine. Jordan Engeldinger replaced him at quarterback.

The Dons' first score of the game came in the fourth quarter on a shovel pass to Corey Hardin, who had been kept relatively quiet until that point.

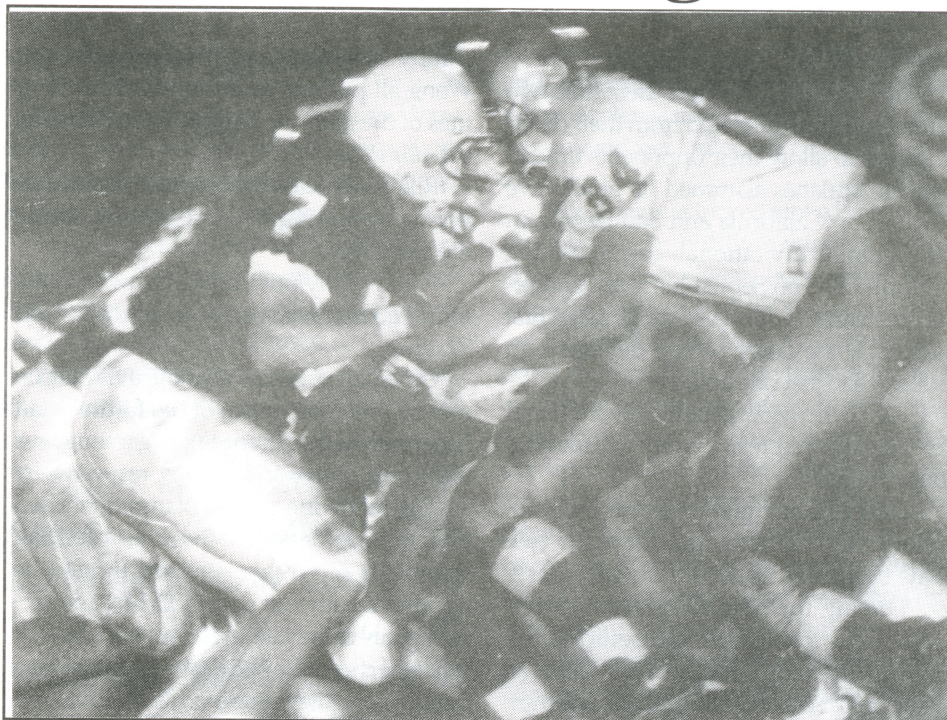
A pressured and scrambling Engeldinger threw the Dons second and last touchdown to Rob Meinbress in the endzone.

But the Dons were no match for the Mats who racked the score up to 46-12.

When the final whistle blew, the Dons had amassed only 146 yards while giving up 397 yards.

This game was tougher for the Dons than their two prior games, both wins, against Hayward (final score: Acalanes 14, Hayward 7) and Mt. Diablo (final score: Acalanes 28, Mt. Diablo 0).

Coach Smith also felt that "we should have played better. We by far played probably our worst game so far."



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

The Acalanes offensive line tries to stop Concord's defensive linemen who relentlessly penetrated the Dons' front wall last Friday night.

GIRLS WATER POLO

Mats Hang Dons Out To Dry

Teressa Wickham

Staff Writer

The Acalanes Lady Dons were once again swamped by Miramonte, losing 8-4. The girls played well, but too little too late as Miramonte flooded them with six quick scores in the first half.

"We had a slow start and unfortunately we lost two key starters, Lizzie Block and Elaine Nourse, early on in the first half, but we came back strong in the second half. We had sixteen shots on goal, while (Miramonte) only had four," said senior Heather Stretch.

At the end of the third quarter, Stretch turned her defender and passed to senior Michelle Migliore who turned and shot into the high left corner of the net.

During the fourth quarter, junior Anne Olson fired a one-on-one goal from a six on five, while Migliore powered a one-

on-one goal with thirty ticks left.

"We played pretty well, but not up to our full potential. If our shots were on, the game would have been tied," said Migliore.

"During the second half, especially the fourth quarter, our team really came together and played some of the best water polo we've ever played. We won the second half and even [Miramonte's] coach thought we could have beat them if we played the whole game like we did the second half," said Olson.

Despite dropping to a record of 3-1, McAlister said, "They are the most talented group of ladies I've ever coached, both athletically and academically. (The girls are) the best team that Acalanes has ever had, and they are in phenomenally good shape."

BOYS POLO

Dons Drown California And San Ramon

By **Teressa Wickham**
Staff Writer

After breezing through their first two games, the Dons retreated from their deadly waters to allow their opponents time to recover. Acalanes slammed its tidal wave down upon California and San Ramon in the Acalanes Invitational, easily beating California 17-5 on September 19th. California was blasted with seven goals in the first quarter by the Dons, whose defense kept California to just one goal.

Coach Brian Monty could only smile and say "they played really well" when asked about the game.

Acalanes continued to thrash their opponents in the next quarter with two goals by junior hole set Pat Riley early on. During the second quarter, senior driver Ted Livingston and senior driver Paul Crawford scored one and two goals, respectively, one after another, making the score 7-1.

In the third quarter, senior driver Tim Malone put in two and senior drivers Matt Lynn and Scott Hudson put in one each within a minute of each other off of counter attacks.

In the fourth quarter, junior drivers Danny Holligan, Greg Conlon, and Scott Wong all put one in during the final minutes of the game, to complete the downfall of California.

Riley countered a late comeback by California by scoring two last goals to secure the Dons win.

"Riley really put California away in the fourth quarter with back to back goals," said Wagner.

On defense, senior goalie Travis Nelson and sophomore 'goalie of the future' Matt Saget each had an extraordinary game against California with 6 and 3 saves, respectively.

The following day, Acalanes quenched their hunger for flesh as they mutilated San Ramon 11-6. Wagner helped thrash the opponent with four goals. His first and second goals came late in the second quarter when he drove the ball down the court for a goal, when Riley assisted his backhanded goal, making the score 4-1.

Holligan and Malone both contributed two goals off of cross passes and counter attacks during the third quarter. As if the mutilation that had all ready occurred was not enough, junior driver Conor Deal and

Lynn scored late in the third quarter off of cross passes.

At the end of the third quarter, with four seconds left, Wagner shot a full court shot, bringing the score to 11-1. His last goal came in the fourth quarter with a one-on-one goal from a break away. Crawford finished off the scoring with one goal from a counter attack and a one on one with the goalie.

"We started the game out slow, but put them away in the second quarter by playing in the lanes defense and countering them," said Wagner.

Nelson and Saget both shined with 10 and 2 saves, respectively.

The following weekend, the Dons lost face with two devastating losses to Campolindo and Marin Catholic on September 26th. They lost to Campolindo 7-8, and Marine 12-9.

"They're a young and inexperienced team that is progressing a lot, and their best game was against Campo. They have their ups and downs," said Monty.

The Dons are 4-3 so far with wins over California, San Ramon, Benica, and St. Ignatious, successfully defending up to this point their league title of last year.

CROSS COUNTRY

Acalanes Has Eye on League Championship

Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

The varsity girls pulled off an impressive jump, taking ninth, while the varsity boys finished lower at 19th during the Adidas Invitational meet at Newhall Park on Saturday, September 19.

The Acalanes cross country team had its first meet, the Little Ed Pre-run, on Friday, September 4 at Hidden Lakes Park.

The Ed Sias Invitation meet followed on Saturday, September 12, at Hidden Lakes Park, was also two miles. The "family," as the coach and players call the team, ranked ninth with 127 points for the varsity boys side, and thirteenth for the varsity girls.

Judging from these pre-league meets

and the hits that other teams have taken from losing top runners, Acalanes seems to be on top of the TCAL. They may be able to take the league title since their rivals at Granada has switched to EBBAL league and the Campolindo boys lost 10 of their top 11 runners. The Campolindo girls team also lost their star runner last year, Katy Burkes, to graduation. This leaves Miramonte as the Dons closest rival.

Though Acalanes seems on top, Coach Manny Myers thinks that the girls side of the team hasn't gotten enough conditioning in yet (even though they run an average of 35 miles a week) but potentially is a great team. They have also lost their more experienced runners.



Nikola Prowznik runs at a practice.

Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

GIRLS TENNIS

Dons Ace Alhambra to Remain Undefeated

By Sam Cunningham
Staff Writer

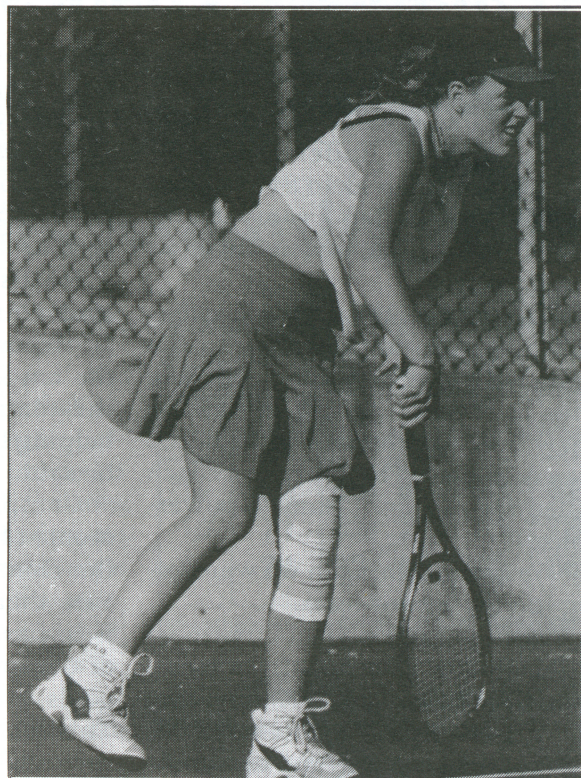
The Acalanes girl's Varsity Tennis Team started off the first month of the season by easily defeating Concord, Dublin, Freedom, Mt. Diablo and Alhambra in September to go 5-0 and enter into a three way tie with Miramonte and Campolindo for first place in the Tri-County Athletic League.

Although they have yet to play either Campolindo (5-0) or Miramonte (5-0), the Lady Dons have proved themselves to be a dominant team in the TCAL. In their match at home on September 25th Acalanes trampled over Alhambra 7-2 with Junior star Ashley O'Neil defeating Alhambra's Kristen Manuel 6-3, 6-0. The other singles players by large won with the only defeat coming from Megan Allen's close loss to Jenica Jones 6-4, 4-6, 4-6. The doubles were carried by Acalanes through the Katilin Fickle-Leah Smith win 6-3, 6-0 and Paige Momsen-Taylor Bentley

winning 6-0, 6-4. "Our girls played really well against Alhambra," commented Varsity Head Coach Judy Corliss.

Earlier in the month the Lady Don's were victorious over Concord 9-0, Dublin 8-1, Freedom 8-1, and Mount Diablo 9-0. In the victory over Mount Diablo on September 24, O'Neil won her match by forfeit when her opponent was a no-show. The entire team won their individual matches, routing Mt. Diablo.

The Dons are scheduled to play Miramonte on the first of October and should be the crucial match in deciding the leader in the TCAL in October.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Junior Ashley O'Neil serves to Alhambra's Kristen Manuel. O'Neil won the match 6-3, 6-0.

SIDELINES

Big Mac: No Sellout and Fans Have A Ball

By Chris Vetek
Sports Editor

The poison grew day by day. The sports page reeked of it. Its tentacles branched out and choked more and more of professional sports. It was kept alive by inertia, and by the laws of physics. Only a stronger and opposite force could slow it down and stop it.

Fans were all too familiar with the trend. They saw it infiltrate the Warriors with Sprewell. They saw it with the Raiders' return to Oakland. They saw it in baseball with the 1994-95 labor dispute that cut short one season and stopped the next. They saw it with Michael Irvin and the Cowboys, and again with Chris Webber when he was fined for Marijuana possession.

It took no less than the power of the

big bat and good sportsmanship to pound it into submission. Enter the mighty Mark McGwire and his record-smashing, magical 62nd homerun that broke the Maris record on September 8th. Enter also the humble groundskeeper with a conscience in place of greed.

Here's how the spectacle should've played out. Tim Lincecum, who recovered the ball, should've rejoiced with glee, holding a \$3 million prize in his hand. He should've bellowed that the ball and the money were his. Mac should've righteously proclaimed that he earned the ball and it was his.

How did it really play out?

"It's not mine," Lincecum said, "McGwire just lost it and I brought it home." (SF Chronicle 9/9).

Lincecum, realizing reality, returned the

million dollar prize to Mac, and Mac, with the glory of all baseball weighing down on his massive shoulders, intoned that the ball would be placed in Cooperstown, for all of us to keep.

Just like that, a fairytale ending, a moment that will stick with all of America.

McGwire and Sosa ended the season with 70 and 66 homeruns, respectively, with Mac belting four in the last two games. Sosa is going on to the playoffs with the Cubs (at the expense of the Giants). These two giants of baseball showed us that not all highly paid superstars are in it for the money. They illustrated the game at its best, hugging and laughing like rival buddies in the little leagues. Fans saw a return to baseball at its best, and it remains to be seen if that trend will last. America hopes so.

BOYS SOCCER

Acalanes Crushes Alhambra 4-0 at Home

By Myles Rush
Staff Writer

The Acalanes varsity soccer team increased their undefeated four game winning streak to five in beating Alhambra 4-0 in a competitive, physical game, on September 28 at Acalanes.

The stage was set for a great match as Alhambra came into the game with a record of 3-1. Losing only to Miramonte, 1-0, Alhambra knew they had to come in strong to play Acalanes. The Alhambra coach called the Acalanes team "a powerhouse."

"We knew coming in we were going to play a hard team."

Justin Fossum had his first goal of the season on a pass from teammate Bret Boudreaux. Among him the other scorers were seniors C.J. Duffaut, John Parker, and one of the

team captains Sean Parks. Acalanes attempted 24 shots to Alhambra's 3.

Varsity head coach Ed Blengino attributes the team's success to the preseason camps where the team talked about their goals for the season.

He also attributes it to the great leadership the team has.

"Team morale is really raised by the ten seniors we have...Carrying the team emotionally as well as helping the younger guys develop," he said.

Campolindo (4-0-1) and Miramonte (4-1-0) are two strong teams the Dons are going to have to elevate their game against. Acalanes is in first place in the TCAL ahead of Campolindo. They've scored 38 goals, and have yet to be scored on. This can partially be credited to senior goalie Mark Philpot, and to the

intense varsity defense. Philpot made 3 saves in Monday's game, and added immensely to the Dons victory. The team lost five of their seniors last year.

"Everybody was essential, but I think the main core of the team is still here," said Blengino.

Field conditions were one problem mentioned by both coaches who said it made play more difficult.

The Dons have a lot of great players this year, including David Miskie and sophomore Rusty Phillips, who are two players that made the state team. They also have two freshman playing for them, Nic Allen and Ethan Caskey.

The Dons great start early on is a big confidence booster for the team. They're showing the rest of the league that they're a force to be reckoned with.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Acalanes Slaughters First Three Opponents

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

The Acalanes girls varsity volleyball team has hit off the new season with a 3-0 record in league play beating Granada, Dublin and Freedom High School playing an effective and efficient game against all three teams.

In the first match against Granada the Dons made a clean sweep by winning all three games 15-7, 15-6 and 15-6. In this game the Dons were able to out serve, hit, receive and block their opponents throughout the match.

Junior Lindsay Cimina lead the team with 8 kills followed by Senior Audry Lin with 7 kills and Sophomore Becky Twohey with 6 kills. Sophomore Jill Sexton played a great game with 6 aces and several kills of her own. During this match the Dons lived up to the expectations of Coach Changaris, who

described the team as having lots of power and strong serving ability said, "When we are on we really serve tough." This was demonstrated by the fact that there were only two service faults and 8 aces throughout the match.

In the second match the Dons faced Dublin high and lost the first game 13-15 but rallied back to clinch the match by winning 15-13, 15-8 and a crushing 15-3 score in the last game. Throughout the game the Dons showed their stuff by coming back from a tough first game loss and fighting back with 43 kills throughout the match, lead by Jill Sexton with 10 kills and Lindsay Cimina with 9 kills. For setting Senior Alicia Young set a great game with a total of 33 assists and 3 kills as well.

In the third match the Dons out-classed Freedom High in a three game shut out scoring 15-4, 15-8 and 15-4. Communication was a key factor in this decisive win

over Freedom. The Dons were calling the balls all over the court and were playing a huge game but Freedom lacked the communication the Dons possessed. The Dons were also able to monopolize on the sets of Alicia Young with Jill Sexton playing a great game having 8 kills and Audrey Lin, Lindsay Cimina and Becky Twohey all with 4 kills.

The team set up is currently a 5-1 with the setter in the back row with two passers and three hitters. Changaris feels that this is effective for now but that it hurts the secondary setters in that it doesn't give them as much practice in games that they need to improve.

Though this new varsity team isn't perfect yet they are working hard to get better and to get closer to being #1 through practice and perseverance.

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleaders Go! Fight! Win Respect?

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

They choreograph dances, they practice a minimum of five hours a week almost all year round, they perform for the entire school at rallies, they perform consistently at sporting events, and they attend a summer camp to work on their skills and learn rally techniques. But the Acalanes cheerleaders say they are not getting the respect they deserve.

The cheerleading team members cannot apply for leadership positions, they cannot use fund-raised money for the team, they receive no credits, and the girls say they are fed up with their treatment.

On the outside, the girls seem very content. They giggle their way through practice day after day, while attempting dangerous stunts. They are a tightly knit group of friends devoted to the school. But inside, the team feels that it deserves more respect and privileges.

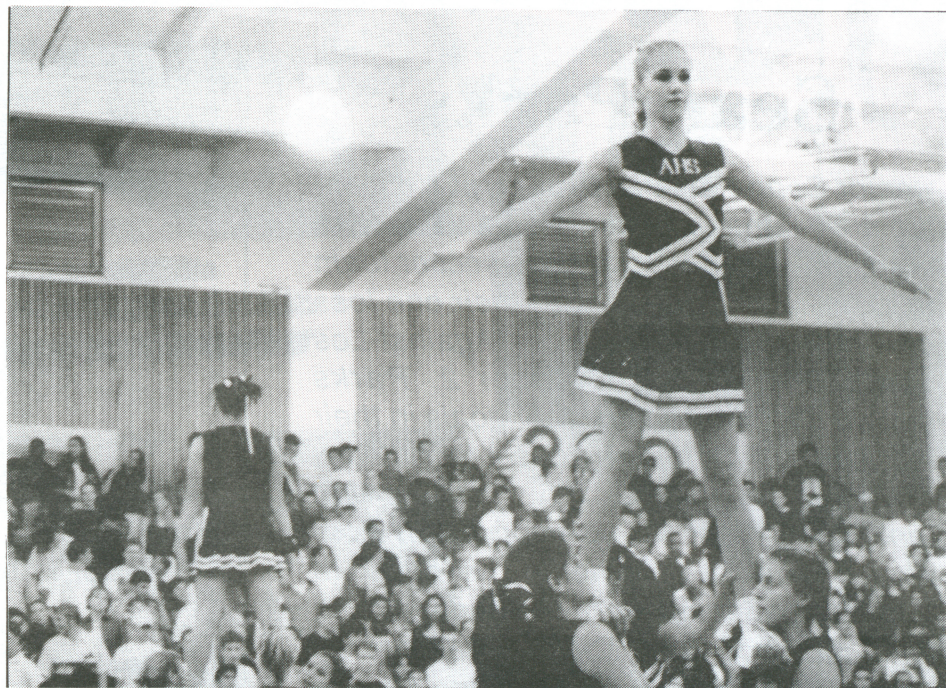
The cheerleading team is the only team at Acalanes that does not have a hired coach, and cheerleading is the only athletic activity through the school that is not considered a sport.

"It's really frustrating," said Varsity cheerleader Lauren Mackenzie. "We don't even get a coach, and if we wanted one, we would have to pay for it ourselves and not practice on school."

Mackenzie is just one of many upset cheerleaders. She and others say they are denied rights that they deserve, and that school administration is doing little to help them.

Principal Keith Schmidt acknowledged the girls' dilemma, but pointed out that every school has a different method of incorporating cheerleaders into leadership and not every plan can please every person.

Although the team does not have a coach, they do have a supervisor, Liz Galer. Galer, an Acalanes teacher, agrees that the girls deserve a coach



Courtesy Photo/Akian

Varsity Cheerleaders perform a difficult stunt at the Welcome Rally. Cheerleaders practice many hours to perfect these athletically demanding stunts.

and are on their way to being a sport.

According to the 1997-98 Acalanes Constitution, cheerleaders may not run for leadership positions because they are a part of leadership themselves.

"Only two people are allowed to attend the leadership meetings, the captain and the co-captain," said Varsity cheerleader Jessica Reid. "But all of us are listed under leadership, even though most of us don't get credit. At the same time, because we're listed under leadership, we can't run for any kind of office, so it sets up a double standard."

The Leadership class of 1997-1998 worked towards enabling the cheerleaders to run for other Leadership positions, but the Acalanes Constitution was not amended to allow the girls to do this.

In addition, cheerleading is not considered a sport, so the girls cannot apply for athletic P.E. or "option out" of regular P.E. during the year.

Last year, the team did fund-raising,

but they were told that the money would be used for the school, not for the team, even though the girls have to pay up to \$500 for uniforms and another \$100 or so for summer camp.

In addition to a lack of funding and coaches, the cheerleading team feels that it is not respected by the school. "The hardest part of cheerleading is the fact that we support the whole school at sporting events and rallies, but no one supports us. Instead, we're mocked and made fun of by students," said Reid.

Cheerleaders from many schools feel a similar lack of student respect, said Mackenzie who recalled that Acalanes was the only cheerleading team at cheerleading camp that did not have a coach or advisor with them. "It was embarrassing," said Mackenzie. "The camp coordinator asked us who our coach was, and when we said we didn't have a coach or an advisor, he said, 'Oh, you must be Acalanes.'"

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Sean Parks

Senior Sean Parks is **Blueprint's** choice for male athlete of the issue. Parks, a co-captain, has led the boys soccer team to a 7-1 record so far, with their one loss coming against Miramonte. Against Los Lomas on Friday, October 2, Parks scored two of the Dons' four goals in their 4-1 victory. "Sean provides a lot of leadership. The younger guys respect and look up to him," said senior Justin Fossum. "Against Miramonte, he had one goal at the beginning of the game, which was one good play" despite their overall poor performance, said Fossum. He is a leader among many veteran leaders on this experienced squad, and an invaluable asset for his team. However, Parks will be warming the bench and sporting crutches for at least the next game or two, nursing a sprained ankle.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Michelle Migliore

Senior Michelle Migliore is this issue's female athlete of the issue. Migliore scored three goals in the Lady Dons' 8-4 loss against Miramonte, and as a co-captain has maintained a high degree of teamwork and motivation. "The best thing about Michelle is that she is the most reliable" on the team, says junior goalie Grace Woods. "It seems like she'll always score, and she'll always win the sprint...She gets us psyched for each game," she says. The Lady Dons can attribute their success largely to the efforts of Migliore, whose veteran leadership is a requisite in their offensive dominance.